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Grachev Hails START II, Restates CIS Support

LD0901145693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian-American Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, START II, signed in Moscow in the first days of the New Year, is considered by Russia and the Russian military, as was the rare case earlier, as an unprecedented and successful compromise. At our microphone is the Russian defense minister, Army General Pavel Grachev:

[Begin Grachev recording, in Russian with superimposed English translation] The treaty is aimed at strengthening strategic stability and ensuring the security of Russia and the United States through a dramatic reduction of their nuclear arsenals. By January in the year 2003, the number of warheads in Russia and the United States will be reduced three to four times, and will be three to three and a half thousand each. The United States will slash nuclear systems that arouse most alarm in Russia. Among them will be high precision warheads of intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine ballistic missiles including the Trident-2 system, as well as long range cruise missiles, short-range control missiles, and nuclear bombs for heavy bombers. Russia pledges to eliminate heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles, which are of most concern for the United States. The decision was conditioned by political, military-strategic, and economic considerations.

Having agreed to eliminate intercontinental ballistic missiles, Russia actually gave up plans of their further modernization and production. The service limit of these missiles expires and more cannot be produced. They were earlier manufactured in Ukraine. Their production in Russia would require enormous financial and other expenditures. The reduction limits set by START II do not deprive Russia of its nuclear potential. Its strategic forces, formed in compliance with the treaty, will have such combat capabilities that will curb attacks by any potential aggressor, said the general. [end recording]

Asked about the attitude by other Commonwealth countries, which still have nuclear weapons, to the Russian-American treaty, General Grachev said the following:

[Begin Grachev recording, in Russian with superimposed English translation] They think it's a positive step. The treaty would not have been signed if the leaders of the Commonwealth states bearing strategic nuclear weapons had doubted its expediency; I mean Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, concluded Russia's Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev. [end recording]

Nikolayev on START, Defense Capabilities

LD1001220793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Interview with Lieutenant General Andrey Ivanovich Nikolayev, first deputy chief of staff of Russian Armed Forces, by anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev; live or recorded—from the "Itogi" program]

[Text] [Kiselev] To what extent does the START II treaty meet Russia's defense capability interests? It is probably particularly important to know the opinion of professional servicemen in this matter. In the Itogi studio today, therefore, is Lieutenant General Andrey Nikolayev, first deputy chief of general staff of Russia's Armed Forces. Tell us, Andrey Ivanovich, will Russia keep sufficient missiles, and is there any reason to talk about America allegedly keeping the capacity to inflict the first nuclear strike, and Russia having lost it?

[Nikolayev] In principle an assessment of this treaty, from the military specialists' point of view, has already been given. It was done by the defense minister and the chief of the general staff of Russia's Armed Forces. I can state just one thing, which was also said in these assessments: Sufficient nuclear weapons will remain in the Russian Federation to provide a reliable guarantee of our country's defense capability.

[Kiselev] And as regards the first strike?

[Nikolayev] As regards the warning strike, a warning strike for military specialists is a strike at a set time. To deflect it, in the first instance, a reliable and stable warning system against missile attack is needed in the Russian Federation and, according to the treaty, in the appropriate Commonwealth countries. If this system functions reliably and stably, the strategic nuclear forces in the Russian Federation will be quite sufficient to respond to any possible strike from a potential aggressor.

[Kiselev] Is there any foundation to talk about this idea that reducing nuclear weapons, especially on such a large scale and to such a level, is perhaps too expensive?

[Nikolayev] You know, I think that if you are speaking about the political assessment of the expediency of the reduction in nuclear weapons, as the most lethal weapons on earth, then there can be no question of any price on the outlay. As far as the individual elements in the strategic nuclear forces are concerned, such as the SS-18 missiles, we are often reproached for reducing these but it is quite clear to all military specialists that every weapon has its own life span. This is also true of these missiles, heavy missiles with multiple warhead sections. They had a technical life span lasting until the year 2000, 2005. We would have in any case have had to renew these, this stock of missiles. These missiles were produced in Ukraine. In order to replace them with identical heavy missiles with multiple warhead sections, we would have had to set up new factories in Russia. This would have required colossal expenditure. We have embarked on another path. We are giving up these missiles and are mounting in their place single-warhead, multipurpose missiles which are meant, we have been granted the right to make provisions to set these up by this treaty. [sentence as heard]

[Kiselev] I know that you personally took part in the Geneva meeting with the Americans where everything was resolved on New Year's Eve, everything was definitively resolved, together with Kozyrev and Grachev. Tell us, simply as a participant in these final decisive negotiations, what you think. Why did the Americans make very serious and very significant concessions?

[Nikolayev] I would like to say that despite the constructive nature of the negotiations themselves, the situation was not easy. It was natural that the Americans made concessions. The point is that a treaty always provides for both sides making certain concessions, while gaining the main thing, the security of their peoples.

[Kiselev] Nonetheless, in purely human terms, how did you manage to achieve trust; did personal trust, human trust, play a role?

[Nikolayev] I think that this is now the leitmotiv of any negotiations. People change, including the military.

[Kiselev] Well, thank you Andrey Ivanovich for coming to see us and for giving your interpretation of this particularly military—but not only military, also military and diplomatic—aspect of this problem.

Belarus Foreign Minister Praises START Treaty

LD1001131993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The foreign minister of Belarus, Petr Kravchenko, has applauded the Russian-American agreement on strategic arms reductions, START II. The minister reaffirmed his republic's sincere wish to become a neutral, nonnuclear state. As Kravchenko recalled, the last train with tactical nuclear weapons on board left Belarus on 27 April last year. The strategic nuclear weapons still deployed in Belarus should under the agreement be transferred to Russia within seven years.

Committee for Nuclear Policies To Meet 21 Jan

OW1001143693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the General Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces informed Interfax that the Committee for Nuclear Policies will hold a meeting on January 21, on the eve of the CIS Minsk summit. This committee consists of the defense ministers of the four nuclear states of the CIS (Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus).

The press-center's spokesman said that Commander-in-Chief Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov intends to ensure that the participants in the meeting clearly define to which states nuclear weapons belong. This has to do, above all, with the position of Ukraine, which has announced its nuclear-free status but, in Shaposhnikov's opinion, is unreasonably delaying the ratification of the related agreements.

The General Command also thinks that following the Alma-Ata talks between the defense ministers of the Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) to be held on January 15, Kazakhstan's position on the issue will have to be specified.

Whether or not Shapishnikov will participate in the Alma-Ata talks will be decided within the next few days. At the moment, he is undergoing a routine medical check-up in a hospital.

Multinational Meeting Reportedly Held on Karabakh

NC0701155493 Yerevan SNARK in English 1331 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, January 7 (SNARK)—Trustworthy sources informed SNARK of the Armenian, Azerbaijani, Russian, Turkish and U.S. representatives closed-door meeting on the Karabakh problem. This is the second meeting of such kind and composition. The first one was taking place last December in Geneva. Karabakh representatives hadn't been invited. The observers are of the opinion that the last talks hadn't gained any success just because of there were no representatives from Karabakh.

'Unofficial Talks' Confirmed

LD1001113293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Hostilities continue in the Caucasus between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. All attempts by Azerbaijani forces to cross the Armenian border have proved to be unsuccessful. According to a press secretary of Armenia's Defense Ministry, the Azerbaijani side lost about 400 people killed and a large amount of armored vehicles in the offensive. Azerbaijan, in turn, reports heavy losses allegedly sustained by the Armenian army.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Armenia's Parliament Babken Ararktsyan confirmed there had been unofficial talks on the Karabakh conflict between Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, the United States, and Turkey. However, he stressed the meeting was of a consultative nature.

Barents Sea Cooperation Conference Opens in Norway

LD1101102593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Kirkenes, northern Norway January 11 TASS—A conference of foreign ministers of North European countries on cooperation in the Barents Sea area has opened here. It is being attended by foreign ministers of six European countries—Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Russia, as well as a representative of the European Community.

The conference will work out the guidelines of cooperation in the Barents-Euroarctic region. It will outline a programme of the economic, scientific, technological, humanitarian and cultural cooperation of countries, located in the region.

The Russian delegation at the conference is being led by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Russian Foreign Minister Arrives

LD1101035893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0015 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Kirkenes (Norway), 11 Jan— Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Kirkenes in northern Norway today to take part in an international conference for cooperation in the Barents region, which is to open today.

Foreign ministers from six countries--Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Russia—and a representative from the EC Commission have arrived for the conference. The conference participants are expected to adopt a declaration "on cooperation in the Barents-Euroarctic region."

On his way from the airport to the town center, the Russian minister and his Norwegian colleague Thorvald Stoltenberg laid wreaths at a monument to Soviet servicemen and Norwegian patriots who gave their lives to liberate Norway from fascist occupation.

International Officials Discuss Russian Army Aid

WS0801130093 Riga LETA in English 0431 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, January 7 (LETA)—According to the press service of Latvian Foreign Ministry, on Tuesday [5 January] a meeting took place in the Russian Defence Ministry in Moscow. The meeting was supposed to discuss the foreign assistance to the Russian Army officers to be withdrawn from the Baltic states. Russian military officials, specialists from Foreign Ministries of Norway and Denmark as well as representatives of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia participated in the meeting. They discussed concrete possibilities to cooperate in construction of houses and social objects [word as received] and financial contribution to the process. Several locations were mentioned as future construction sites—Luga, Sosnovy Bor, Velikiye Luki and others.

The Deputy State Secretary for Eastern Affairs, Aivars Vovers, from Latvian Foreign Ministry and Deputy Head of the Office for the Former Soviet Army Withdrawal, Ludis Pavilonis, were among the Latvian delegates. At the meeting Latvian representatives reaffirmed the readiness to help with construction capacities, materials and labour force if the project was provided with financial resources.

Initially Denmark will contribute 8 million USD [U.S. dollars] to the project as the respective conception was still being specified. Norwegians did not mention a definite sum. The representatives of Norwegian Foreign Ministry expect to visit the Baltics in January to discuss the possible cooperation in solution of the problem.

The meeting decided to form a joint working group comprising Nordic, Baltic and Russian experts from respective structures to carry out the coordination of the project.

Shaposhnikov on Rationale for Commonwealth

PM0801170193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 93 First Edition p 4

[Interview with Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov by Vladimir Zelentsov; place and date not given: "Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov: My Wish for the New Year Is That We Not Be Deceived"]

[Text] At the time the two presidents presented their new year gift to the people perhaps not everyone noticed that the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces—which include the strategic nulcear forces on the territories of four Commonwealth states—was not present at the signing of the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments. But in the final days of the old year Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov participated in the second plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg, where it was said that many of the agreements in the so-called military package of CIS documents are not being implemented. If that is so, then why?

[Shaposhnikov] The documents on defense and security questions elaborated over the year run to two volumes. They lie on my desk. But before saying whether or not these agreements are being implemented, it is necessary to give a definite answer to the question: Yes or no to the Commonwealth? Is it a covert form of divorce, as some politicians believe, or the path to integration through self-determination?

[Zelentsov] And what do you think, Yevgeniy Ivanovich?

[Shaposhnikov] For some time I thought, and even now I would like to think, that the Commonwealth will be more than just a word. But I can see how the situation is changing. The sovereignization syndrome is also creeping into the CIS countries' military departments.

The main document, to this day inoperative, is the Treaty on Collective Security signed in Tashkent by six states. Over a period of six months it has been ratified only by the parliaments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Armenia. According to the majority in the Russian Supreme Soviet, the treaty is somwhat severe. When it was discussed at the Interparliamentary Assembly session I was told that it was necessary to propose a collective security blueprint and, as commander in chief, I should work more with the parliamentarians. Well, I accept the criticism and I will mend my ways. The parliamentary representatives of the six states suggested that I elaborate and submit for examination by the next assembly session the basic principles for aligning national military legislation and proposals on enhancing the Commonwealth's defense capability. I will try to carry out the work by April 1993.

[Zelentsov] So it can be said that the foundation of a CIS military-political alliance is being laid? And the Commonwealth's Joint Armed Forces are stationed on the territories of these six states?

[Shaposhnikov] You can, of course, talk about a military-political alliance, but first of all you must establish many parameters. At the moment the Joint Armed Forces consist of two components. The first is the strategic nuclear forces, stationed in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus; the second is the troop contingents allocated to the operational control of the High Command for the performance of peacekeeping functions. But the uncertainty will remain as long as the Treaty on Collective Security remains unratified.

[Zelentsov] So the CIS Joint Armed Forces have no status as such at the moment?

[Shaposhnikov] They do have a status, but these forces cannot be used even as peacekeeping forces unless the parliaments so decide. The Tajikistan situation is a graphic example of this. The Republic turned to Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan for help. Representatives of these countries' military departments devised a plan in Termez for an operation to introduce peacekeeping forces into the trouble spot. But the proposal was only backed by the Uzbekistan parliament.

[Zelentsov] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, it will soon be the first anniversary of an unprecedented forum in our history—the All-Army Conference of Officers' Assemblies. How would you assess this phenomenon today?

[Shaposhnikov] The conference was held on the initiative of officers who were worried about the future of the Army within the Commonwealth framework. Today it is obvious that the military's worries were not unfounded. But even now I am certain that an attempt to return to the past would push our peoples toward civil war. It is a shame that it did not prove possible at the time to convince politicians that a single or joint army should be retained in the Commonwealth for a transitional period of three to five years. The division was implemented in a clumsy manner, reminiscent of children handing out toy tanks, submarines, and tin soldiers. The proposed transitional period would have helped the Commonwealth states to create their own national armies calmly. But what happened was they jerked people around, calling them under different banners, and forcing many of them to take another oath. But even after all that, today military collectives in many regions remain multiethnic both in spirit and in composition.

Personally, I never again want to serve any individual person or elite. And if people in the Army still have a mutual affinity and feel that they are a single organism, then I believe that this trend must be supported. Otherwise we will fall apart completely. At present there is not a single state in the CIS that would be able to build an effective defense without the help of the others. That is the way it has turned out. People tell me that this can be done on the basis of bilateral agreements. I doubt it.

[Zelentsov] As commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, were you consulted before the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Weapons was signed?

[Shaposhnikov] This time no. But the presidents of the states on whose territory in the CIS nuclear weapons are located have defined my international law status on the basis of which I participate in the process of control, situation analysis, and the issuing of instructions if a critical situation should arise.

My analysis of the state of affairs concerning military-political issues in the CIS shows that matters have reached crisis point in the Commonwealth. Naturally, we have not lived through this past year in vain. There are pluses and minuses, but if you weigh them all, then unfortunately there are more destabilizing factors. In my opinion, we must stop deceiving both ourselves and others as soon as possible. If we need a commonwealth, then what kind of commonwealth? I would like to hear a direct and honest answer at the upcoming meeting of CIS heads of state in Minsk.

[Zelentsov] Can you predict the various possible answers?

[Shaposhnikov] Of course. The first is that a commonwealth is only possible in an amorphous form in which there are no coordinating organs—or only nominal ones. Their activity would mainly amount merely to preparing conferences and meetings. That is, national resources are spent on them simply without justification. Personally I do not want to receive money for nothing.

But this option leads nowhere. A different one suits me—an efficient, viable commonwealth in the form of close economic and military-political union with strong coordinating organs. Those states that are not ready for such a form of commonwealth today can leave the CIS and transfer mutual relations to the framework of world prices and standards.

The choice of options will allow us to answer another question too: What defense system are we to build in the future: an individual one for each state, involving the creation of separate science and production potentials, or a collective one? All this is of fundamental significance to the High Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, whose activity is seen by some as a struggle against the sovereignties or a struggle for its own survival. Neither of these has anything in common with the real situation. We are only interested in one thing—resolving together difficult social-legal, material-technical, and operational-strategic tasks. If the leaders of the CIS states have no problem with this, they must say so.

[Zelentsov] And yet the new year brings new hopes....

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, last year was not the best year. Personally I would like 1993 to be brighter.... And everything to be clearer and more comprehensible. So that no one among us is deceived.

Comments on Results of 1992

LD0901164293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Interview with Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Joint CIS Armed Forces, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Radar: Armed Forces and Society" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Good afternoon! The year 1992 was a year of fundamental changes for our Army and Fleet. The armies of now sovereign states have appeared on the basis of what once were the single armed forces of the former USSR. The division of the military legacy was rather painful. It was a difficult period for us, but as they say, it is all history now. I have asked Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Joint CIS Armed Forces, to sum up the results of last year.

[Shaposhnikov] The first thing we achieved was the fact that the first stage of the division of the Armed Forces in accordance with their state affiliation was more or less painless. I mean without bloodshed. You will probably recall the period when the USSR ceased to exist but the USSR armed forces were still there and at the time there were forces in society and in the army which were pushing us to say stop and stand to attention to everyone and even to create a new USSR with the help of the armed forces. That way was leading nowhere, or more precisely, towards civil war. Of course, the armed forces would have been to blame for it. We have avoided this. Nevertheless, the armed forces remained with numerous unsolved problems.

First, I would like to mention the problems that have been solved. The Armed Forces have acquired their statehood. Now they have their own governments, presidents, defense ministries, laws, constitutions, etc. Second, bilateral relations are gaining momentum, inter alia in the military field. Toxic nuclear weapons have been successfully removed to the territory of the Russian Federation. These are, perhaps, the main positive elements which characterise our activities in the military field in the CIS in 1992. A number of major agreements have been signed.

At the same time the Armed Forces have a lot of problems which have not been resolved. First, of course, is the obscurity and uncertainty of state affiliation of strategic nuclear forces. On the one hand, they should belong to Russia, on the other, you know the position of Ukraine which has not yet ratified the START I Treaty and there are problems associated with Ukraine's attitude to START II, etc. Second, the fact that in the armies of the Commonwealth countries our servicemen who in their spirit, form, and content remain internationalist collectives, live according to uncoordinated legislative

acts with regard to legal and social matters—there is a big difference in the financial position of servicemen and with the privatization vouchers—some of them have them, others do not. As for the inhabitants of Russia in shoulder straps who continue to perform service outside Russia—their issue also has not been resolved yet. There are a lot of similar problems.

[Correspondent] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, as commander in chief in resolving what problems will you concentrate your main attention in 1993?

[Shaposhnikov] There will be two tasks in 1993. The first is strategic forces, their management, their composition, a coordinated policy regarding their reduction. The second is general purpose forces. There is a large spectrum of issues here, beginning with coordinating legislative acts.

[Correspondent] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, what would you like to wish everybody in shoulder straps in 1993?

[Shaposhnikov] First, I would like to wish hope and optimism; of course, I join these wishes. At the same time I would like to wish that none of us should feel deceived and done out of their share; and of course health, happiness and well-being to families, prosperity to homes and, as for business, we will do everything we can in order for our servicemen to regain their former prestige and glory.

[Correspondent] One would like to hope that the former prestige of the Armed Forces and military service will be restored and a lot will be done for this already this year. On my behalf I would like to wish Happy New Year and merry Christmas to all servicemen. I would like to wish you all the best.

Nazarbayev, Akayev, Karimov Support Minsk Summit

LD1001161993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by Vladimir Savchenko, from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The presidents of a number of Commonwealth states have supported the meeting of CIS heads of states planned for 22 January in Minsk.

As was reported by Nursultan Nazarbayev's press office, it is expected that he will take up a firm position there for developing and fleshing out with specific content the accords which were reached until now within the CIS framework.

Kyrgyzstan's Askar Akayev has come out in favor of holding the Minsk meeting. In an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent he stressed that his point of view on everything connected with the CIS has not changed at all. It is important the Commonwealth should be an operating, working organism and not a formal entity, Akayev stressed.

Uzbekistan's president intends to take part in the Minsk meeting. He believes that it is too early to organize the funeral of the Commonwealth of Independent States, even though for the time being it has not justified the hopes placed on it. However, the possibilities for mutually advantageous partnership are still far from having been exhausted, in his view.

Yeltsin To Meet Clinton 'Soon' After Inauguration

LD0801161293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, stated at a news conference in the Kremlin that he plans to hold a meeting with Bill Clinton on neutral territory soon after his inauguration on 20 January.

Meeting Shows 'Great Power' Role

LD0801235393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1446 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton will shortly meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This was confirmed by George Stephanopoulos, an official representative of the new administration's transitional committee. Thus, with regard to the change of administration in the White House, there will not be any pause in Russo-American relations. Our observer, Viktor Levin, comments on this announcement.

[Levin] That a pause would be extremely undesirable since it could create difficulties was made absolutely clear by Russian President Boris Yeltsin immediately after signing the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons, START II, on 3 January. Today we can say with good reason that the position of the Russian president is understood and accepted by Bill Clinton. Least of all would I like to talk about a success for the Russian president in foreign policy activity since, as the Americans say, it takes two to tango. The fact that despite initial suggestions, U.S. President-elect Clinton, who will take over in the White House on 20 January, decided not to postpone the Russo-American summit meeting and along with urgent economic problems decided to deal seriously with foreign policy straight away as well shows an awareness of Russia's significance for the United States and in world affairs.

If we enter into polemics with those in Russia who see failure and lack of success in everything that the president and government do, then of course we can say that Yeltsin not only managed to make Clinton hear his call for a meeting but also agree to it as well.

This doesn't in the least show Russia to be weak but entirely the reverse. But I repeat: Very early on, Yeltsin insisted on the forthcoming meeting with Clinton, not to conduct arguments on domestic policy, nor to demonstrate the obvious but for action, action in the name of Russia.

Those who call themselves the opposition try to find a weak spot even in the indisputable successes of the Russian president. In principle, and on this basis, oppositions are there to be impartial in uncovering weak spots where they exist. But seeing white as black is no longer being an opposition but something completely different. And when people who call themselves patriots in actual fact wish harm on Russia, it is pointless to argue with them. Russia was, is, and will be a great power. The events of recent times, including Bill Clinton's agreement to hold a meeting very shortly with Boris Yeltsin, graphically confirms this fact.

Commentary on Meeting

LD1001145093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton plan to meet shortly. They agreed to meet during a telephone conversation last Monday. Comment is by Yuriy Solton and this is what he writes.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton seem to agree that there should not be a pause in the development of relations of partnership between Russia and the United States, which under the outgoing Bush administration were crowned with a treaty on a further reduction of strategic arms, START II. Mr. Clinton told journalists that he was waiting impatiently for the meeting with Boris Yeltsin. I would like, he said, that such a meeting take place at the early stage of my presidency.

Soon the Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev, and the future U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, will start preparatory activities. The materialization of START II, signed in Moscow on 3 January, is expected to be the center stage of the talks. In their telephone conversation both Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton said they would do their best to rafity the treaty early, both in the Russian parliament and in the U.S. Senate.

Pessimism on the treaty's coming into force, voiced today by some observers and politicians seems to be hardly justified. Some refer to the opposition in the Russian parliament and the U.S. Senate and to the position occupied by Ukraine. Well, one cannot deny the fact that both in Russia and the United States there are politicians and representatives of the military-industrial complex who show a negative approach to any disarmament agreements. Hopefully the majority of them understand the historic importance of the new treaty both for the drastic reduction of the burden of the two countries' armaments and for strategic stability at a lower level.

As to the position of Ukraine, which advances some conditions for ratifying START II without which the treaty cannot come into force, this problem could also be resolved. Anyway, Ukranian President Kravchuk gave appropriate assurances. Indeed disarmament problems, their positive solution by Russia and the United States, play a tremendous role in strengthening international security. But also significant is the stabilization of the situation in the world and the development of cooperation between the two countries in the political and economic spheres.

The planned working meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton is called upon to strengthen this cooperation.

Kozyrev on Meeting With Warren Christopher

OW1001151793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1458 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev believes that soon he will have a "very amicable business contact" with the new American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. In answer to a question from DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent before his departure from Moscow on Saturday [9 January], A. Kozyrev referred to his proposed meeting with W. Christopher as something natural and certain.

According to him, President Boris Yeltsin, in a telephone conversation with American President-elect Bill Clinton held the day after the signing of START-2, agreed to have a working meeting "designed to avoid a pause in Russian-American relations" with him.

Even though Russia and the USA no longer aspire to dominate the globe, they continue to be superpowers "from the viewpoint of their responsibility for maintaining peace," said Kozyrev. According to Russia's foreign minister, the START-2 treaty "underscores the special responsibility and special role" played by Moscow and Washington—hence, the need to continue the dialogue with the USA. "This reflects Russia's responsibility as a great power, not its "pro-American trend," as some people are given to saying," he pointed out.

Where and when Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher will meet has not been coordinated through diplomatic channels yet, a high- ranking member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told DP. According to him, their meeting might be held soon after January 20, when the inauguration of President Bill Clinton takes place in Washington. "This issue will be raised when the candidacy of W. Christopher is considered by the Senate on January 13-14," the diplomat said.

According to him, the proposed meeting, during which a date for the next Russian-American summit might be fixed, is likely to be hosted by a third country. However the possibility of W. Christopher's coming to Russia is not ruled out, DP's interviewee said. He believes that "for a number of reasons" the possibility of conducting such a meeting in Washington is slim.

According to the diplomat, after the telephone conversation held between B. Yeltsin and B. Clinton on January 4, Kozyrev spoke with Christopher, and the two men agreed "in general terms" to meet in person.

Liberal Democrats Condemn U.S. 'Aggression' Against Iraq

OW1001111493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] leadership has demanded that the governments of the USA, Great Britain, France and Russia cease to threaten Iraq with force.

In a statement issued on Sunday [10 January] by the party's press bureau, the party's leadership condemned "renewed aggression against Iraq motivated by American capital", aggression which was also involving Russia.

The Party's leadership demanded the immediate resignation of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who was conducting a "pro-American" foreign policy.

Moscow Urges Iraq To Adopt 'Reasonable Position'

LD1001171693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1603 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The sharp surge in tension around Iraq, with regard to the mounting cases of its planes' intrusion into the "no-fly zone" in the south of the country, has been followed attentively in Moscow over the past few days, as has its siting of anti-aircraft complexes in the area of the 32d parallel, creating an unprecedented threat to the air forces of the coalition. This is stressed in a statement made by the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman today.

Desiring to prevent the situation from developing along the lines of a dramatic scenario, the Russian side, the document says, appeals to Baghdad to adopt a reasonable position, to take measures to remove Iraq from a possible strike, and to save its people from renewed suffering.

Simultaneously, firmly adhering to the line of unconditionally eliminating the aftermath of the crisis in the Persian Gulf, Russia took the appropriate action jointly with the United States, Britain, and France vis-a-vis the representative of Iraq in New York.

The statement points out that the coordinated actions of the "four" made it possible to avoid a large-scale military-political explosion. These events demonstrate the efficacity of mutual action by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the possibility of making Iraq respect the wishes of the international community.

It is to be hoped that a sense of reason will predominate in Baghdad and that the Iraqi side will take steps to fulfill completely the appropriate UN resolutions aimed at the restoration of peace and security in that region so sensitive for the world community, the statement says.

In particular, Russia is counting on the Iraqi authorities lifting their recently introduced ban on the use of UN planes to deliver UN personnel to Iraq who are involved in the IAEA special commission on disarmament, and also the UN Iraq-Kuwait observation mission. It is clear that the effective blocking of activity by these international bodies by means of such actions is fraught with serious complications.

In Moscow, the statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman stresses, it is assumed that the full implementation by Iraq of the UN Security Council decisions on a post-crisis settlement will enable it to return to the international community as a sovereign and territorially integral state.

Kozyrev Says Moscow Respects UN Iraq Strategy

OW0901131593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev says Moscow intends to show full respect of UN strategy for Iraq. Addressing mounting tensions around Iraq, the Russian minister told INTERFAX [IF] Baghdad might come to face trouble if it acted on the assumption the Security Council resolutions could be ignored.

Andrey Kozyrev talked to an IF reporter Saturday [9 January] before leaving Moscow for Murmansk and on for Norway and Finland.

The Security Council permanent members, including Russia, had demanded that Baghdad withdraw its land-to-air missiles from positions north of the 32d parallel. Baghdad was to have met the demand by the night from Friday to Saturday.

The Minister told INTERFAX that Russia would base its decisions on advice from ambassadors, including its own Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov, to the United Nations.

In the meantime, the Russian Foreign Ministry says that although Moscow upholds the UN sanctions against Iraq, it will play no role in any kind of anti-Iraqi war operations.

Intelligence Service Officials Leave for U.S.

LD1001132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 10 CRIME-PRESS-TASS—High-ranking officials of the Russian External Intelligence Service left for the United States today at the invitation of the American organisation "Centre for Democracy".

The delegation led by Lieutenant-General Vadim Kirpichenko, head of a group of advisers to the chief of the Russian External Intelligence Service, will continue their dialogue with American colleagues which they began at the International Conference on the Role of Intelligence Services in Conditions of Democracy held in Sofia in April 1992. The Centre for Democracy was one of the organisers of the forum which brought together experts from 22 countries.

Tatiana Samolis, the press secretary of the Russian External Intelligence Service, told reporters that Russian and American experts will discuss joint intelligence efforts in areas where the interests of the two countries coincide - in combatting drug trafficking, international terrorist organisations, illegal arms sales, organised crime and attempts at nuclear proliferation.

In addition, Russian delegation members will discuss with their American colleagues methods of intelligence in areas where the fields of national interests do not coincide.

During the ten-day visit contacts will also be established between the organisations of veterans of the Russian and U.S. intelligence services.

Turajlic's 'Murder' May Disrupt Bosnian Talks

OW1001153493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1459 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry has urged all participants in the talks in Geneva to go on with their work for the purpose of achieving a political compromise that would pave the way for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Bosnia. It will be extremely deplorable, if the act of provocation: the assassination of the Deputy Premier of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Turajlic, leads to disrupting the Geneva talks between the three Bosnian sides, the ministry pointed out in its statement published in Moscow on Sunday.

The spokesman expressed indignation at the assassination of Mr. Turajlic committed when he was under the protection of U.N. forces. According to him, the activity of the local command of Bosnian Serbs, which made it possible to kill a highranking member of Bosnia's government, should be condemned as a "gross violation of international humanitarian law and a challenge to the U.N. authority". Russia's Foreign Ministry demanded that those responsible for the crime be punished.

Moscow has paid attention to the fact that the assassination of Bosnia's deputy premier was condemned by the leadership of new Yugoslavia and Serbia, the statement said.

The assassination of the Deputy Premier of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Turajlic, underscores the acute need to cease fire as a first step on the road to a settlement, the

director of the press and information department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, told DP [Diplomatic Panorama].

This tragic event is another testimony of the fact that the conflict can be resolved only by political means, he said. "Terrorist acts and the attempts to resolve the problem militarily can lead only to further bloodshed. This road will not yield additional political dividends to any party involved in the conflict," he said.

The diplomat believes that it's premature to speak about how Russia will vote at the U.N. Security Council, if the peace process in Geneva gets disrupted. "The potential of political settlement has not been exhausted yet. We hope that the talks in Geneva will be continued, and that extreme measures will be avoided," he said.

Foreign Ministry 'Concerned' Over Angola Events

LD1001160393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1545 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 10 ITAR-TASS—Russia is seriously concerned over the deepening of the military political crisis in the Republic of Angola, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in statement released here today. Military clashes are spreading in the country lately and the number of lives lost is increasing.

It is known that the original impulse to these developments was imparted by the rejection by the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leadership of the returns of the general elections held in the country under international supervision in September 1992, in addition the units has made it clear that it is not ready to take part in a normal political process, the statement said.

Despite all efforts of the international community, the situation in Angola is now in a political impasse and there exists a real threat of resumption of the full-scale civil war.

Russia's position and attitude to recent developments in Angola are quite clear, the statement said. "We remain committed to the spirit and letter of the Lisbon Accords and proceed from the recognition of the results of the general elections and the legitimacy of the new power institutes. We are confident that the process of long-term peace settlement in Angola is possible only through putting an end to bloodshed, stabilizing the situation and returning to the negotiating process, possibly with international participation. There is no alternative to this approach."

Russia is ready to do everything in its power to normalize the situation in Angola and facilitate its peaceful development, the Russian Foreign Ministry stressed.

Armenian Leaders Arrive for Talks With Yeltsin

LD1001101593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0955 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan arrived on a brief working visit in Moscow on Sunday for economic talks with their Russian counterparts.

They are to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

TASS learned from the press service of the Armenian president that the Moscow meeting will focus on bilateral economic cooperation, Russian supplies of natural gas and electricity to Armenia.

Russia is a reliable partner and Armenia is sure that the existing bilateral agreements will be strictly fulfilled, head of the press service Aram Abromyan said. He did not mention whether the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh will be also discussed.

Discuss Economic Ties

LD1001150793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan are meeting in the Kremlin now to discuss bilateral economic relations, including Russian gas and oil supplies to Armenia, Ruben Shugaryan, Armenian presidential spokesman, said.

Shugaryan said the two leaders will also touch upon political issues, including the conflict settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, adding that Armenia has welcomed the joint statement by the presidents of Russia and the United States of America on the Karabakh settlement.

Speaking about the upcoming CIS summit meeting in Minsk, the spokesman said the positions of Russia and Armenia are so close that they do not need preliminary discussion.

On Monday, the Armenian delegation will meet with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Chernomyrdin, Ter-Petrosyan Sign Agreements

LD1101105593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Sergey Podyampolski]

[Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—Supplies of Russian energy resources and other goods to Armenia were in the

focus of the meeting between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and visiting Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

"Armenia is in a difficult situation at present and Russia will do everything to fulfill its obligations and help Armenia live through the complicated period", Chernomyrdin told TASS after the Monday talks.

The talks, in which Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan also participated, covered a wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation. Agreements in principle on life-support measures to Armenia were reached, according to Chernomyrdin.

After the talks the Russian and Armenian prime ministers signed agreements on cooperation in science and technology, as well as in higher education.

Arutyunyan thanked the Russian leadership for support it renders to Armenia in such a difficult time. "In Moscow we met with businesslike understanding and outlined concrete approaches to solving the problems. This gives hope", he said.

Kozyrev Begins Trip to Murmansk, Norway, Finland

LD0901121493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1123 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vasiliy Belousov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Murmansk, 9 January—"The aim of my trip to Murmansk, and then to Norway and Finland, is to achieve the interests of the Russian state in the northern regions through interaction rather than confrontation, as occurred in the past, and to discuss matters of interaction with our nearest neighbors," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated today talking with journalists on his arrival at Murmansk airport.

The minister noted that the safeguarding of national security under the new conditions will be discussed at the forthcoming talks, both here and in the Scandinavian countries. In this connection, he stressed the great importance of the outcome of the recent talks between the Russian and U.S. Presidents and the START II treaty signed by them. This treaty, the Russian minister emphasized, opens up new opportunities and prospects for the country's naval forces in strengthening combat readiness and enhancing the quality of armaments, and at the same time defines the conditions for renouncing ruinous confrontation and arriving at qualitatively new principles for the defense of national interests.

Comments on Purpose of Trip

LD0901125193

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1100 GMT on 9 January carries in the "Vesti" newscast a report by correspondent N. Pavlov on Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's remarks to journalists at Murmansk airport on 9 January, including the following recorded statement by Kozyrev:

"I expect the opening of another window to Europe. You remember that our ancestors tried to cut a window right here, in the north, in the northwest. This historic task remains, but now we do not tackle it with soldiers against either Sweden or other neighbors; we realize our national interest through interaction, through cooperation. I think that the conference that is to be held will be a good supplement to the Baltic States' Cooperation Council. A council for cooperation between the states around the Barents Sea is being created. I think we will manage to sign a declaration that is, by and large, through its fullness, equivalent to a plan of concrete action to develop cooperation in such areas as investment, transport, ecology, and conversion. These are not only common, state, Russian interests, but also regional interests."

Pavlov remarks that it is thought that, at the meeting between the foreign ministers of the Scandinavian states and Russia in Norway, consideration will be given to the question of cooperation in the area of fishing, nonferrous metallurgy, nuclear power engineering, and exploration of the gas fields on the shelf of the Barents Sea, as well as problems connected with ensuring collective security in the north of Europe.

Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1257 GMT on 9 January carries the following item transmitted via KYODO:

"Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has left Moscow for the cities of Murmansk and Severomorsk on the Kola peninsula. He will be expected to brief the personnel of Russia's strategic naval bases on the significance of the recently signed START II treaty under which Russia and the United States are to carry out unprecedented reductions in their nuclear arsenals.

"The Minister is planning to visit a defense plant in Murmansk, and the nuclear submarine Akula and the aircraft carrying missile cruiser Ushakov at the Northern Fleet's main base Severomorsk 30 kilometers away from Murmansk.

"On the eve of Kozyrev's trip to the north the Chief of the Foreign Ministry's second European desk Yuriy Fokin said the trip was meant to signal an end to the Cold War in northern Europe and it was time the former adversaries launched peace cooperation.

"Fokin said that next Sunday, January 10, the Russian Foreign Minister would visit the Norwegian city of Bode where he would hand over a Russian MiG-15 to an aviation museum and meet with the commanders of a NATO air base. In the same city Andrey Kozyrev and his Norwegian counterpart Thorwald Stoltenberg would discuss the forthcoming conference of the Barentsevo sea nations.

"The conference, scheduled to open in the Norwegian city of Kirkiness on January 11, will bring together the Foreign Ministers of Russia, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland, as well as representatives of the leading European nations, the United States and Japan. It will be expected to produce a Declaration of cooperation in the Barentsevo/Euroatlantic region which will call for the creation of a Barentsevo council.

"On January 12 Andrey Kozyrev will open the schedule of his official visit to Finland. He will be unlikely to sign any documents in that country.

"Tuesday night the Russian Minister will leave Finland for Paris where he'll attend the unveiling of an international convention on chemical weapons."

Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1400 GMT on 9 January carries the following report datelined Murmansk by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vasiliy Belousov and Georgiy Shmelev:

"Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Saturday met here with plant managers, businessmen and the public of the Murmansk region to discuss major issues of the socioeconomic development of the region and ways to expand links with neighbour countries.

"The Russian minister noted the great interest of the country's leadership to that region and pointed to the necessity to develop all around relations with the northern regions of neighbouring Scandinavian states on the principles of mutually beneficial partnership.

"Speaking about the problems to be discussed at his meeting with Scandinavian foreign ministers in Kirkenes, Kozyrev said: 'The talks in Norway will focus not on military and political issues but on ways to create political conditions conducive to the development of cooperation on the entire range of problems discussed by the ministers. These include, as we saw now, those that concern Murmansk residents as well. These are ecology, investment, border trade, protection of our interests in fishing.' Kozyrev noted talks on cooperation in the field of communications and information will feature prominently during the meeting.

"After Murmansk Kozyrev left for Severomorsk where he will hold talks with the North Fleet command and meet sailors of several naval vessels."

Arrives in Bodo

LD1001061393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Bodo, Norway January 10 TASS—The creation of political conditions for the development of cooperation between the two countries are to be discussed during the forthcoming talks in Norway. These will be primarily matters concerning the expansion of trade, investments, fisheries, ecology, etc., Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated on Saturday [10 January] upon arriving at the airport of the Norwegian city of Bodo.

"We shall also consider the entire spectrum of problems that worry Nordic peoples, regional cooperation, including that in science, technology, ecology, and the economy," he said.

Kozyrev arrived here at the close of his tour of Murmansk region. His stay in Norway will begin with talks with his Norwegian counterpart, Thorvald Stoltenberg, on a wide range of matters concerning bilateral relations. The two sides will exchange views on topical regional and international problems.

The two foreign ministers will sign an agreement on prompt notifications about nuclear breakdowns and on exchanges of information on nuclear facilities. The Russian minister will attend a ceremony of the handing over of a MiG-15 aircraft to the Norwegian Aviation Museum in Bude.

Kozyrev will make a trip to the Bodo Air Force Base where he will have talks with Norwegian and NATO representatives on the development of military-and-political cooperation.

Subsequently Kozyrev is to leave Bodo by air for the city of Kirkenes to attend a conference of the foreign ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and representatives of the commission of the European communities on cooperation in the region.

Then the Russian minister will pay an official visit to Finland and afterwards go to France to attend an international conference on a ban on chemical weapons.

Begins Talks With Norway's Stoltenberg

LD1001102093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Bodo, Northern Norway, January 10 TASS—Talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Norwegian counterpart Thorvald Stoltenberg have just begun in the building of the governor's office of the Norwegian County of Nordland.

The two sides will discuss primarily matters connected with the development of interaction and cooperation on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including ecology, trade, investments and other spheres, Kozyrev told journalists before the start of the talks.

"We shall consider a wide range a problems that are of concern to our two countries and the neighbouring Nordic states," he emphasised.

A Russo-Norwegian agreement on prompt notifications about nuclear breakdowns and on exchanges on information about nuclear facilities is to be signed at the close of the talks.

Later in the day, the Russian minister will attend a ceremony to hand over a MiG-15 aircraft to the Norwegian Museum of Aeronautics and will then leave by air for Kirkenes to attend an international conference on cooperation in the Barents Sea region.

Signs Nuclear Agreement With Norway

LD1001134293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Russo-Norwegian talks have ended in the Norwegian town of Bodo. After the talks the two countries' foreign ministers, Andrey Kozyrev and Thorvald Stoltenberg, signed an intergovernmental agreement on prompt notification of nuclear accidents and exchange of information about nuclear installations. Speaking after the ceremony, the ministers stressed that the two sides had signed the agreement because they wished to develop good-neighborly relations between the two states and to promote mutually advantageous, bilateral cooperation.

Visits Air Force Base, Views Ties

LD1101105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Bodo, Northern Norway, January 11 TASS—Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev attended a ceremony to hand over the body of the MiG-15 aircraft as a gift of the Russian Government to Norway's Aviation Museum on Sunday.

Addressing the ceremony, Kozyrev said that before flying to Norway the Russian delegation visited the navy base in Severomorsk, the Murmansk region. "Today, it is visiting Norway's Air Force base where U.S. U-2 reconnaissance aircraft landed at one time. This is a remarkable event as we are building a bridge of cooperation between the former adversaries and in this regard the development of our friendly relations with the U.S. as relations between partners today and allies in future also seems remarkable and important. This was most forcefully demonstrated by the recent signing of the START II treaty by the Russian and U.S. Presidents."

"Our direct military contacts with Norway, NATO are becoming a reality today. All parties only stand to benefit from this," Kozyrev went on.

"We received a unique present," north Norwegian provincial government chairman Erihson said at the ceremony. "This present, MiG-15, signals that the fear of the cold war is a matter of the past. Today, this aircraft is a symbol of peace, friendship and cooperaiton. The good neighbourly relations between Russia and Norway is a specific example of how we pass from words to deeds."

Upon the completion of the ceremony, Kozyrev toured the Air Force base in Bodoe and then flew to Kirkenes where he will attend a conference on cooperation in the Barents Sea region opening today.

Talks With Kazakhstan End; Prime Ministers Sign Pacts

LD0901143793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk January 9 TASS—Russia and Kazakhstan ended their talks in Omsk on Saturday by signing several agreements on cooperation. The two delegations, led by Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Sergey Tereshchenko, signed a large-scale agreement on the principles of economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between adjacent regions of Russia and Kazakhstan, agreements on cooperation between Interior Ministries, on railways and an inter-bank agreement on establishing direct correspondent relations.

Opening a joint news conference, Chernomyrdin recalled that the meeting was organised at the initiative of Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev and was the "first such meeting in the history of our states". The meeting, he continued, helped elaborate a plan of joint actions for 1993 and beyond.

Tereshchenko told journalists that: "Heads of administrations of adjacent regions of Russia and Kazakhstan receive freedom in developing cooperation so that the economy of neighbouring regions could develop on mutually beneficial terms."

Asked by ITAR-TASS, Chernomyrdin expressed the hope that Russia will be able to attain the same high level of relationship with the other countries of the CIS. "I hope that our current agreements will be followed up at the January 22 meeting of heads of state and government in Minsk," he said.

Tereshchenko would not say if the charter of the CIS would be signed at the Minsk meeting, stressing only that "Kazakhstan is for a single economic space and coordinated actions." "Nobody should be brought into the Commonwealth by force," he said. "Let those who want to work in the Commonwealth sign the charter and join the CIS," he declared.

Tereshchenko refuted rumours about refugees from Kazakhstan in the Omsk region. "We do not have such information," he said. "Migration in Kazakhstan's northern regions does not exceed last year's migration."

Ministers Review Agreements

LD0901095993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0728 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk, 9 Jan—The present meeting in Omsk of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan Government delegations again proves that these two states, as two good neighbors, "are united not only by unique historically established relations, but also by the traditions that exist between our peoples." Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, stated this today at the opening of the meeting of the heads of admininistration of the adjacent territories of Russia and Kazakhstan.

"The particular feature of the Russian Government policy at the present stage is the transfer of all the burden of the reforms to the local level and primarily dealing with questions of social development. In these conditions, it is especially important to develop bilateral ties between the regions," he stated. Viktor Chernomyrdin reminded the audience that Russia has the longest stretch of border with Kazakhstan than with any other CIS country or former USSR republic—more than 6,000 kilometers. On the Russian side, 10 oblasts and the Altaiskiy Kray share a border with Kazakhstan, and nine of the Kazakhstan oblasts share a border with Russia. "Thus, history has made 27 million Russians and seven million Kazakhstanis into good neighbors," he stressed. "It is symbolic—continued the head of the Russian government—that this meeeting is being held at the very beginning of the new year, which, in our opinion, should be a year of stabilization of the economic situation in our countries and of setting up preconditions for growth in production levels and living standards for the people. And, we have good foundations for such a forecast, such as consolidating our efforts for providing mutually beneficial cooperation and creating real conditions for development of the market relations." It is very important, said Viktor Chernomyrdin, that heads of administrations of the adjascent territories of Russia and Kazakhstan become the guarantors of such cooperation. "With increased frequency, they are now taking responsibility for interaction in the areas of the economy that are of mutual interest and helping to create necessary conditions for preserving already existing and newly formed economic ties."

Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed confidence that "the signing today of the agreement prepared on the principles of economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation between the neighboring oblasts of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan for 1993 will allow the opening up of additional possibilities for the effective use of the economic potential created in our states and will help increase it on a qualitatively new basis." The head of the Russian cabinet stated that "powerful integrational links have been formed, which have deep historical roots," between the neighboring territories of the two countries, as well as between Russia and Kazakhstan as a whole. "Giving a new impetus to our traditional links and our brotherhood is one of the tasks of our meeting," he stressed.

Kazakhstani Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko also stressed the significance of the deepening of relations between Russia and Kazakhstan and "economic integration and the strengthening of friendship and cooperation." Having spoken in favor of creating a single economic space in Russia and Kazakhstan and for developing economic cooperation in adjacent areas, Sergey Tereshchenako recollected that 47 percent of Kazakhstan's national income is being produced in areas adjacent to Russia. The head of the Kazakhstan Government expressed the hope that the Omsk meeting will result in lifting all existing customs barriers between the two countries, in resolving the problem of enterprises' mutual payments, and a number of other problems.

Touching on the issue of deliveries of grain from Kazakhstan, Sergey Tereshchenko said that 2 million tonnes of grain had already been dispatched to Russia. "In the near future, Kazakhstan will produce 35-37 million tonnes of grain, and we will be able to deliver over half of it to the Russian Federation," he said, recalling that last year drivers and combine operators from adjacent oblasts of Russia had taken part in bringing in the harvest in a number of Kazakhstan oblasts.

Speaking of the recent meeting in Tashkent of leaders of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan, Sergey Tereschchenko stated: "Kazakhstan is not engaged in any backstage game."

"Kazakhstan recognizes the inviolability of the borders and does not have any territorial claims, it guarantees observance of human rights on its territory and advocates fraternal friendship and complete interaction with Russia," Sergey Tereshchenko said in conclusion.

'Text' of Joint Communique

LD0901220893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1921 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan ITAR-TASS—The following is the text of the communique on the results of today's meeting between government delegations from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan and heads of administration in adjacent regions of Russia and Kazakhstan:

"In accordance with an agreement reached between the Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin, and the Kazakhstan Republic President N.A. Nazarbayev, a meeting of government delegations from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as heads of administration from neighboring regions of Russia and Kazakhstan (Astrakhan, Volgograd, Kurgan, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orenburg, Samara, Saratov, Tyumen, and Chelyabinsk oblasts and Altay Kray on the

Russian side; and Aktyubinsk, Atyrau, East Kazakhstan, West Kazakhstan, Kokchetav, Kustanay, Pavlodar, North Kazakhstan, and Semipalatinsk oblasts on the Kazakhstan side), was held in the city of Omsk on 9 January 1993.

"The government delegation from the Russian Federation was headed by V.S. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the council of ministers of the Russian Federation, and that from the Republic of Kazakhstan by S.A. Tereshchenko, prime minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Members of governments and heads of ministries and departments in both states were also part of the delegations.

"The government delegations from the two states expressed the common viewpoint that the meetings and talks on a wide range of issues which they had held were the logical continuation of previous meetings in the cities of Uralsk, Moscow, and Alma-Ata. Such meetings confirm that qualitatively new bilateral relations, stemming from the Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, signed by B.N. Yeltsin and N.A. Nazarbayev in Moscow on 25 May 1992 and ratified by the Supreme Soviets of both states, have been established between Russia and Kazakhstan.

"The parties thoroughly discussed problems of mutual interest and coordinated approaches to a practical realization of intergovernmental agreements. It was especially emphasized that the historical, economic, and geographic closeness of the two countries and long-term cooperation of their economies are the solid basis for strengthening integration processes and they help to overcome difficulties of the transitional period and increase possibilities for every party to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation. It was confirmed that it is urgently necessary to coordinate efforts in establishing extremely favorable conditions for developing market relations between economic agents of both states and to secure social protection for the population during the transition to a market economy.

"During the review of results following implementation of the agreements previously signed it was noted that some ministries, departments, organizations, and territorial bodies of management did not provide for the fulfillment of some joint activities. The heads of the delegations instructed them to arrange work for modernizing the mechanism of the practical realization of accords which have been reached. At the meeting the problems of strengthening economic and cultural ties between bordering territories of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan have been thoroughly discussed. The readiness of developing direct contacts between neighboring regions and enterprises, taking into account the maintenance and further development of mutual relations in basic branches of the national economy of both states was confirmed.

"It was decided to further develop the traditional relations of friendship and internationalism which have built up among the population of the contiguous territories, to assist the evolution of television and radio broadcasting and cultural exchanges, and to provide mutual assistance in the training and retraining of workers, specialists and scientific and teaching staff, inter alia, for ethnic schools, and in providing them with textbooks both in Kazakh and in Russian. In this connection instructions were given to the appropriate ministries and departments. During negotiations issues of the state of crime prevention were also comprehensively examined and the positive experience of joint cooperation of the law enforcement bodies in this area was noted. The ministries of internal affairs of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan signed a bilateral agreement with the aim of the further improvement of the crime situation and the joint struggle against organized crime, drug addiction, and crimes in the sphere of the economy and enterprise.

"The need for further joint use of engineering and transport, communication, water, and land resources in the interests of the two countries was emphasized. The relevant ministries and departments will study the above matters with the participation of the heads of the administrations of the contiguous territories and, if need be, will forward proposals to the governments on resolving the problems which exist. The participants in the meeting agreed to coordinate their actions in the sphere of pricing, monetary and credit, fiscal and customs policy, support for entrepreneurial activity and during the preparation and implementation of interstate social and ecological programs. The parties stated quite authoritatively that the sovereign states and oblasts, kray, republic, belonging to them recognize the inviolability of the existing borders and do not harbor any territorial claims against each other. They will guarantee the observance of human rights and fully eliminate discrimination against citizens on grounds of ethnicity or on other grounds with regard to employment, payment for labor, and other social guarantees.

"During the resolution of issues of dispute the parties intend to be guided by the norms of international law. The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. It was agreed to continue the constructive practice of holding meetings of delegations, both at governmental and interregional levels.

"For the Government of Kazakhstan S. Tereshchenko

"For the Russian Federation V. Chernomyrdin."

Oil Trade Agreement Reached

LD0901173293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The oil workers of Russia and Kazakhstan set a good example for everybody on the eve of the meeting in Omsk. The two largest oil powers of the former union

signed an agreement taking into account the interests of both sides. Kazakhstan will deliver 14 million tonnes of oil to refineries in Russia, and will receive more than 12 million tonnes of western Siberian oil. In this way, the partners can make significant savings on transport costs. The Russians are also providing her neighbors with equipment; moreover, there will be joint exploitation of oil deposits.

[Begin recording B.D. Yelamanov, president of Kazakhstanmunaygaz national oil company] The Russian Federation and Kazakhstan have taken the initiative to build an export pipeline to deliver oil from western Kazakhstan, primarily from Tingisskiy deposits via Astrakhan to the port of Novorossiysk. This will be a joint organization, an oil pipeline consortium. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister on Ukraine's Nuclear Stance

OW1101122293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1141 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian parliament's refusal to ratify the START-II Treaty, or the proclamation of Ukraine's nuclear status will imperil the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov told this to members of the parliamentary coalition of reforms on Monday, during a meeting devoted to the forthcoming ratification of the START-II treaty by the Russian parliament.

"This is going to be a dangerous precedent for other potential nuclear states," he said. "So, the Muslim nuclear bomb will not take long to appear." Grigoriy Berdennikov said that the term of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed in 1968, expires in 1995, when the 150 signatory-states are expected to prolong it or render it indefinitely valid.

He said that both Russia and the U.S. believe that Ukraine must necessarily join the START-I treaty. "Americans have assumed a tough position and are ready to apply sanctions," he noted. Anyway, Ukraine cannot become a nuclear power because it has no nuclear complex, he continued. It produces missiles but cannot produce warheads. It also lacks the skilled personnel to keep the nuclear armaments in adequate condition, he added.

The position of Belarus and Kazakhstan, the two states which Russia and the U.S. have recognized as signatories to the START-I treaty, cause much less concern. Berdennikov told INTERFAX that Russia and Belarus have already signed the agreement which puts the nuclear weapons located in Belarus under Russia's jurisdiction. Talks are underway on concluding a similar agreement with Kazakhstan, he continued. However, neither of these states has finally determined its nuclear-free status.

Soldiers Should Serve in 'Hot Spots' Voluntarily

LD0901100793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0915 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk, 9 Jan—Russian soldiers should perform service in CIS "hot spots" only voluntarily and on a contract basis. Russian Council of Ministers Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin said this today in Omsk at a meeting with representatives of the local Committee of Soldiers' Mothers. At the same time the head of the Russian Government noted that the transfer of servicemen to a contract system will take some time.

The meeting took place this afternoon in the headquarters of the local administration after several dozen women organized a picket in front of the building carrying posters: "Bring our children back to Russia! We demand immediate return of our sons who were sent to Tajikistan by fraud. No to another Afghanistan." The demonstration was provoked by the fact that many Siberian boys go to serve in Tajikistan and Ossetia.

Viktor Chernomyrdin is in Omsk at a meeting of heads of administration of Russian and Kazakhstan territories which have a common border. The meeting opened today.

Georgian Defense Minister on 'Private' Visit

OW1001184793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tengiz Kitovani, the Georgian Defense Minister, arrived to Moscow on Sunday. INTERFAX has learned that it will be a private visit. No official meetings have been scheduled for his visit including meetings in the Russian Defense Ministry.

Grachev, Uzbek Counterpart on Military Cooperation

LD0901181393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Army General Pavel Grachev met on Saturday his Uzbek counterpart Lieutenant General Rustam Akhmedov.

According to a spokeswoman of the Russian defence minister, Yelena Agapova, the meeting, which was marked by mutual understanding, focused on joint use of military facilities, military service on the territory of the two states, training of Uzbek military personnel at Russian military educational establishments and procurement of weapons, military hardware and other military equipment.

Political Affairs

Decree Replacing Petrov With Filatov 'Completed in Essence'

OW0801171693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1705 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that the decrees naming Sergey Filatov as head of the Russian president's administration and dismissing Yuriy Petrov from this post have not yet been signed. But those at the head of state's press service think that these shifts "have already been completed in essence." Sergey Filatov is presently first deputy head of the Russian parliament and a member of the Russian Federation Security Council. Yuriy Petrov is now in Paris as head of the Russian delegation participating in the investigation of the South Korean Boeing jet which was shot down in 1993 by a Soviet fighter plane.

Appointment Benefits Government

MK1101084993 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 10 Jan 93 p 1

[Konstantin Katanyan report: "Who Will Be Left With Khasbulatov?"]

[Text] The announcement that Sergey Filatov has been appointed to replace Yuriy Petrov as head of the president's administration is evidently the last phase in the personnel changes started by B. Yeltsin on the eve of the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

You would have thought that this appointment should please the democrats, who have long been "causing trouble" for Petrov. It is quite possible that the president bore that in mind as well, but that is probably not the main reason for his decision. The policy of extracting the most competent people from the Supreme Soviet leadership—people who remain loyal to democratic ideals and have support among the grass roots—is evidence that Yeltsin has finally grown disillusioned with the body of deputies and lost faith in their ability to do anything for the good of Russia.

That was why ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's reaction to this appointment was so negative; this newspaper generally reflects the official stance espoused by the parliament's leaders or, more accurately, its chairman.

There is nothing to be pleased about—after all, Khasbulatov has repeatedly criticized his first deputy and encouraged him to resign. But it was no accident that Ruslan Imranovich did not put this issue to the Congress. He was evidently perfectly well aware that it is the presence of Filatov which makes it possible to speak of the existence of alternative forces within the Supreme Soviet leadership. Now that Filatov will probably quit his post in the Supreme Soviet—and a replacement will only be able to be chosen by the next Congress to be held some time after 11 April—the confrontation between the majority of deputies and the democratic opposition will become even more explicit.

Thus, Yeltsin has effectively killed two birds with one stone: Not only has he managed to preserve the backbone of the reform government, but he has also considerably weakened the parliamentary elite by successively moving to executive structures V. Shumeyko, Yu. Yarov, and lastly S. Filatov. The parliament seems to have paid too high a price for Gaydar's head.

Yeltsin Appoints New Chief of Staff

OW1101120693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's press service, the President on Sunday [10 January] dismissed Aleksey Golovkov as the government's chief of staff, replacing him with Vladimir Kvasov, proposed for the post by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Vladimir Kvasov, 56, was born in Shatura, Moscow Region, and is a graduate of the Gubkin Institute of the Petrochemical and Gas Industry in Moscow. In 1983-91 he worked in the secretariats of the USSR Deputy Prime Minister and then of the USSR Prime Minister. In 1992, he headed the secretariat of one of the Russian deputy premiers. The same year, he was appointed deputy head of the capital construction department in the state concern Gazprom, headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin in 1989-92 before joining the cabinet. Kvasov held the post in Gazprom prior to his present appointment.

New Ostankino TV Chairman

LD1101130493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—Vyacheslav Bragin was appointed chairman of the Ostankino Television Network by a decree of the Russian president on January 11, the Presidential Press Service said.

Bragin, a close ally of Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the Federal Information Centre, was chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for Mass Media.

New Industrial Policy Committee Chief

LD1001191593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree appointing Igor Shurchkov chairman of the State Committee on Industrial Policy, the presidential press service announced on Sunday.

New Food Industry Committee Chief

LD1001191493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1811 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree appointing Magomedtagir Abdulbasirov chairman of the State Committee on Food Industry, the presidential press service announced on Sunday.

New Foreign Economic Relations Minister Profiled

PM0801120793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 4

[Correspondent Mikhail Berger profile of Sergey Glazyev, Russia's new foreign economic relations minister, under "Personalities" rubric: "We Should Not Expect Any Surprises From New Minister of Foreign Economic Relations"]

[Text] The inhabitants of the well known Mikoyan Cabinet Room high up on Smolensk Square get younger every year. The youngest member of the government in Gaydar's cabinet, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven, has been replaced by the even more youthful Sergey Glazyev. The new minister celebrated his 32nd birthday 1 January.

Strictly speaking, Glazyev cannot be considered a totally new figure in the Russian leadership. He spent the last year working as Aven's first deputy and was responsible for establishing the normative base of foreign economic activity. It cannot be said that he won any laurels for himself in this field. Customs tariffs were changed three times in the course of the year, which prompted considerable criticism from both traditional and new exporters and importers. Several other extremely important rules of the game in foreign economic activity were lacking stability.

Naturally, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations had several highly convincing—or so it believed—reasons for every such change, but this did not alter the heart of the matter or ease the extreme irritation and nervousness felt by exporters and importers.

On the other hand, with Glazyev's active help, the ministry initiated the fundamentally new practice of auctioning export quotas and drew up a series of fundamental normative acts which it believes constitute the necessary legal minimum for normal foreign economic activity.

Naturally, there are considerable objections to the laws and instructions regulating this field of activity, although people close to the new minister are positive that no radical changes or revolutionary decisions and surprises are on the horizon. Glazyev's attitude, set out by his associates, is that foreign economic policy can and must be improved, although ensuring stability in the rules of the game is no less—maybe even more—important than constantly rejigging them in the quest for perfection.

As, in the ministry's opinion, the basic laws and rules have been established, the new minister will have more time to support exports and seek out available niches in the world market for our commodity producers. Glazyev will probably more closely examine economic relations within the CIS and with all the former Soviet republics. He also has to prepare Russia's entry into the influential international organization GATT.

Petr Aven, Russia's former minister of foreign economic relations, describes his successor as very hardworking, very responsible, and highly educated. He adds that he is, maybe, rather too direct, but attributes this to his young age.

As far as education is concerned, Glazyev graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in economic cybernetics in 1983. He defended his candidate's thesis three years later and his doctor's thesis in 1989, thereby becoming one of the youngest doctors of economic sciences. After Moscow State University, he worked in the Central Institute of Economics and Mathematics. Last year, he was on the point of starting work in the International Institute of Applied and Systems Analysis in Vienna, but, offered the position of Aven's first deputy, he returned to Moscow. He never worked, as we wrongly reported (No. 277, 1992), as deputy minister of industry in Silayev's cabinet.

According to specialists, the new minister favors state influence on foreign economic activity rather more than his predecessor did. Time will tell whether this has any consequences in practice.

Glazyev's name has appeared—albeit not often—in the lists of various factions and individual politicians as someone they would like to see in the government. However, Glazyev does not regard himself as the protege of any faction or political movement.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Decree Forms North Caucasian Military District

LD1001135693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree to form a North-Caucasian Military District in Russia—the first one on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Other military districts will be formed in the near future, as envisaged by a law of the Russian Federation on interior troops, ITAR-TASS learned from the headquarters of the Russian interior troops on Sunday [10 January].

Previously, interior troops were not divided into districts, while military divisions and units oragnisationally belonged to regional departments.

Defense Ministry Declassifies Over 500 Documents in 1992

OW1001183993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1832 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ministry press officials put the number of declassified defence-related documents in 1992 at more than 500 which is just as many as had been revealed in the past few decades. The report describes as unprecedented the scope of work done on opening up the defence ministry's archives by Russia's Chief of Staff, general Kolesnikov.

As many as 68 sensitive papers and a secret book on the Soviet Union's first military exercise with the use of an atomic bomb at the Totsk testing range in 1954 are now open to the public.

A number of papers pour the light on the fate of US pilots whose aircraft were shot down over Soviet territory during the cold war period.

Also declassified are materials on a Soviet operation, codenamed Anadyr, on the shipment of Soviet missiles to Cuba during the Caribbean crisis, and on the Swedish diplomat, Raul Wallenburg, who was arrested at the end of WW II.

The ministry report says further disclosures will be made in 1993 including Soviet involvement in the Korean war of 1950-1952 and the deportation of Finns and Germans from Leningrad district at the initial stage of the Great Patriotic War.

[Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian on 10 January on page 1 publishes a related report entitled "Defense Ministry Declassifies Its Shadowy Operations":

["The stamp of secrecy has been removed from approximately 500 files stored in Russian Defense Ministry archives, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has been informed by the Defense Ministry press service.

["On 8 April 1952 a USAF B-29 was shot down by a missile over USSR territory. For many years there were rumors in the United States that the pilot was alive and in captivity. It is now known that the airman died.

["Apart from this, several more files concerning aircraft that were shot down and the fate of their crews have been declassified. All of them died.

["The plan code-named 'Anadyr,' under which our missiles with nuclear warheads were transferred to Cuba in 1962 in merchant ships' holds, has also been transferred to the depository for nonclassified documents."]

Yeltsin Declines To Answer Parliamentarians on START II

PM1101094393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jan 93 p 1

[Viktor Linnik article: "START II: Dialogue in the Best Traditions of Democracy"]

[Text] The PRAVDA editorial office has learned of a letter sent to the Russian president just before the New Year by the chairmen of the three most important Russian Federation Supreme Soviet committees.

While supporting Boris Yeltsin's course of demilitarizing the country's economy and radically cutting the arsenals of the most dangerous kinds of weapons, the authors write, in particular: "...Analysis of the draft treaty shows that it would be advisable to make certain modifications to it. This chiefly concerns the need to clarify the procedure and the timetable relating to disarmament in order to avoid an excessive burden being placed on the country's budget. Certain changes in the structure of the arms subject to cuts will also clearly be required.

"From the political standpoint, however, it would have been more correct to sign the treaty with the new U.S. administration, which would have created a good basis for strengthening our contacts with U.S. President Clinton."

On 26 December Yeltsin's office stamped the incoming document with the number 1-41619. That ended the dialogue between the executive and the legislature on this issue. No response whatsoever has been forthcoming from the president.

If George Bush tried to disregard his legislators in that way, what a storm would blow up over there! In our country, however, it is the done thing. It is those who go on most about the example of "civilized states" who are the first to repudiate the standards of civilized dialogue between the two branches of power.

Commentary Notes START II Effect on Defense Industry

LD1001220293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Commentary by television "observer" Aleksandr Gerasimov, including recorded remarks by Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of he Russian Federation Committee for Defense Branches of Industry; from the "Itogi" newscast]

[Text] We will continue the dialogue and touch on another aspect of the whole range of issues concerning the START II Treaty, that is the economic factors connected with the work of Russia's military-industrial complex. Here is a commentary by our observer Aleksandr Gerasimov.

[Gerasimov] Will the upcoming radical cuts in strategic offensive weapons be reflected in the state of Russia's military- industrial complex, already out of favor with state leaders in recent years? At the Committee for the Defence Branches of Industry—the successor of the Union military-industrial complex—we received a categorical reply: No, it won't. START II will strike quite a painful blow against a number of units in the Russian Armed Forces, and will force the leadership of the armed forces to embark on a structural restructuring of the Defense Ministry, but the defense industry will only get more work from the Treaty. This is primarily by utilizing ballistic missiles. The military-industrial complex is also to create new missile systems with one warhead, which will take the place of the delivery vehicles being reduced, capable of delivering 10 nuclear charges at once and subject to cuts. For the new missiles it will be necessary to reconstruct about 90 silo launchers, previously used for missiles with multiple re-entry vehicles. The stage of substantially increasing the nuclear potential of the Russian submarine fleet will probably begin soon, within the treaty, of course. Even today there is more than one atomic submarine on the stocks of the Severodvinsk machine building enterprise at various stages of completion.

At the same time, the Russian military-industrial complex has tasks which are no less serious. The bulk of the latest models of armaments and military equipment, which were always located in border districts of the former Union, have now ended up abroad for Russia. The defense industry will have to restore the effectiveness of the Army at home. Moreover, however, the Committee for the Defense Branches of Industry has fallen under the terms of the residual principle of financing. [Video shows missiles, silos, submarine construction, and other weapons, then cuts to interview with Glukhikh.]

[Glukhikh] The defense minister and the Government are currently looking, first and foremost, at how to release fixed assets for household conditions, for contract service, and for a professional army. Everyone thinks that it is somehow possible to survive on those stores of arms and military equipment which are laying in the depots or reduced-strength divisions, although the question could be put like this: The Army could survive for a year without a range of arms, but on the other hand the production sphere cannot stand idle like that for a year and then start producing again. Either the technological process is running or it stops. [Video cuts back to clips of various types of weaponry in action.]

[Gerasimov] Although the Russian military-industrial complex assured us that there are already developments in military equipment that are a class above the well-known anti-aircraft systems S-300, or, say, the aircraft Su-27, the Russian Army still has a chance of remaining without modern equipment. Today, enteprises which have not received a state order for two years are entitled to reject them completely, and it could turn out that, if the military has insufficient money, in the coming two or three years the most modern combat machines could be dropped from production, and restoring the technology for manufacturing them would then be considerably more expensive than maintaining it, if only at the previous level.

For understandable reasons we did not receive specific information on the types of high precision armaments being developed, but an indirect confirmation of its existence is provided by the increase in exports from Russia of quite modern military equipment. Moscow has never traded in the most modern armaments, and yet it would appear that after several years of public disparagement and iron rations the military-industrial complex could once again come to occupy one of the upper rungs in the state hierarchy. At least this year its finance is not being cut, as compared with last year. And the personnel changes in the Russian Government over the last six months, in the words of the head of the military-industrial complex, have given his enterprises an opportunity to work.

Officers Union Calls For Discussing Reforms

LD1001213993 Moscow Radio Rossii network in Russian 2100 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian Union of Officers [Soyuz Ofitserov Rossii] has circulated an address to officers of the armed forces, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and State Security, calling on them to take part in organizing and holding an army-wide officers' assembly in the coming months.

At the assembly it is proposed to discuss the course of reforms in the armed forces and the state of combat readiness of the army and fleet, according to RIA.

Government To Create Defense Industries Academy

LD1001100193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—The government of the Russian Federation has decided to set up an Academy of Defence Industries under the Russian Committee for the Defence Industry (Roskomoboronprom). It will be formed on the basis of the "Radel" research and production association and the Central Institute for Upgrading Aircraft Industry Personnel.

In accordance with an order issued by the government, the academy's duty will be to "retrain and upgrade executives and specialists from organisations and enterprises of industries linked with the development and production of armaments, military hardware and science-intensive civilian goods, as well as officials from the central apparatus of Russia's administrative bodies responsible for defence matters".

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Decree on Privatization Voucher Distribution

LD1001225893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] President Yeltsin signed a decree today allowing privatization vouchers to be distributed to people who became citizens of the Russian Federation during this year, as well as to refugees and forced migrants who find themselves on Russian territory and who received relevant documents before 31 December last year. Privatization vouchers will also be distributed to servicemen and their families regardless of their citizenship or the oath they had taken, as well as to recruits from Russian territory serving in Commonwealth countries.

Decree Restricts Privatization of Social Amenities

LD1101104993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree on the use of the social and leisure facilities and public utilities [obyekty sotsialno-kulturnogo i kommunalno-bytovogo naznacheniya] of enterprises that are being privatized. It defines the procedure for privatization and lists facilities that may not be privatized. It particularly emphasizes that privatized social and leisure amenities should not be subject to alteration. According to the decree, the Russian Federation Government should find additional ways of financing social facilities and public utilities currently run by local authorities.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Meets With Egypt's Mubarak

LD0901161493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1502 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo, 9 January—The delegation of the Russian Supreme Soviet, led by Ruslan Khasbulatov, in Egypt on a visit, was received today by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. During the meeting, which lasted approximately three hours, the Egyptian leader went into detail on the progress of the economic reform taking place in the country, emphasizing its gradual, planned, and socially oriented character. Husni Mubarak expressed support for the further development of cooperation between Russia and Egypt in all areas, most of all in the economic sphere, and cited the historical relations between the two countries. He repeated that the Aswan Dam, erected with the cooperation of the former Soviet Union, is a symbol of the friendly links between the two countries.

In turn, R. Khasbulatov passed on greetings from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to H. Mubarak and remarked that our country knows well and values the Egyptian president as a consistent supporter of relations with Russia. The speaker of the Russian parliament talked about his lengthy meeting yesterday in Alexandria with representatives of Egyptian business circles, describing it as very interesting and frank. He said that this spring a representative international forum on problems of Russian cooperation with the Arab world would take place in Moscow, and he called on the Egyptian side to play an active part in this enterprise. During an examination of the Middle East problem, R. Khasbulatov stressed Russia's great interest in its rapid settlement, which is conditional, first, on the involvement of Middle East neighbors and friends of Russia in the resolution of the conflict and, second, on the fact that failure to resolve this problem is generating tension throughout the world.

In a brief meeting with journalists following the talks with H. Mubarak, R. Khasbulatov expressed profound satisfaction on behalf of the Russian parliamentary delegation at the enormous interest that the Egyptian side is showing in cooperation with Russia in the most diverse fields. According to him, this was also manifested in the course of the conversation with the Egyptian president.

Replying to questions from journalists, the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet condemned Israel's deportation of over 400 Palestinians from the occupied Arab lands. Important political problems cannot be resolved using such methods, he noted. At the same time, he stressed that it was impermissible for the deportation of the Palestinians to serve as a reason to interrupt the process of negotiating a Mideast settlement. Referring to the impressions he formed from his meetings in Israel, R. Khasbulatov noted the seriousness of the intentions of the Israeli side and its interest in seeing the process yield results.

Views Visit to Egypt, Treaty With U.S.

NC0901212493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jan 93 p 5

[Report on interview with Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov by 'Abd-al-Malik Khalil in Moscow; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Asked what the objectives of his first visit to Egypt are, Khasbulatov said: There are three objectives. The first goal is to establish direct and solid relations between parliaments in the two countries. Economic and other relations are managed at the government level, but parliamentary relations are still below the desired level. Parliamentary relations lay a broad social foundation that should be built upon by developing dynamic and active relations and eventually consolidating the links between the two peoples.

The second goal is to discuss and get acquainted first hand with the Middle East problems, particularly those that involve the interests of a major state like Russia. [passage omitted]

As Russian representatives, we have to show interest in the world and to use our moral and ethical influence to resolve regional contradictions.

The third goal lies in the fact that Russia's interest lies in avoiding "isolation," although its preoccupation with its own complicated problems has weakened its interest in the Middle East problems. For hundreds of years, we have had relations with the countries of the region; we have friends and partners in the Middle East and we would like to help normalize the situation and strengthen economic, trade, cultural, and scientific relations. I have much to say to parliamentarians, particularly in Egypt. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Malik asked: What is your view of the 40-year-old Middle East crisis, particularly after Israel's deportation of 415 Palestinians?

Khasbulatov responded: This inflammation is natural, due to the absence of a general settlement. Therefore, the situation must be normalized and the various parties should recognize one another and realize the political reality based on respecting the collective interest of all. Events should not be viewed individually; they should be addressed collectively.

Recent remarks by Israeli leaders on normalizing the situation, refraining from the use of force, and resorting to negotiations indicate hope. The obstacles to a peaceful solution must be eliminated. Israel should recognize the Palestinian existence. What is more, it should recognize a Palestinian state.

The Egyptian role is important, even central, in Middle East issues. [passage omitted]

On the U.S.-Russian treaty, Khasbulatov said he did not read its full text. He said that it will be a good treaty if it curbs the international confrontation. He remarked, however, that parliamentarians in both countries must be consulted, noting that Russian parliamentarians did not read it.

Commenting on statements by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Shakhray on the use of force in northern Caucasia, the Russian parliament speaker said Shakhray is not authorized to make these statements, because the Russian Government does not plan to use force. [passage omitted]

Khasbulatov asserted that he is interested in studying the living conditions of the Soviet immigrants in Israel, adding that he will ensure that they are exercising their rights during his visit to Israel. He said that he will meet with the Palestinians if he visits eastern Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Touching on the recent Russian parliament decisions, Khasbulatov said: No one can violate them or say anything against the joint statements of the executive and legislative authorities. Any distortion of these decisions is not good and will result in misfortunes. The people will have the opportunity to make the choice at the next referendum (probably next April). If the referendum is not held, the president and the parliament must resign to prepare for new elections, he said.

Delegation Ends Visit

LD1001201793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1901 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo January 10 TASS—A Russian parliamentary delegation led by Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has ended its visit to Egypt and left for Moscow on Sunday.

During the five-day visit, the delegation met with Egyptian parliamentarians, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Secretary- General of the League of Arab States Ismat 'Abd-al-Maguid and representatives of the Egyptian business community. The delegation also was received by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

In an interview with journalists before the departure, Khasbulatov said the sides discussed a wide range of international and regional issues, including the Middle East settlement. Special attention was paid to bilateral relations between Egypt and Russia, including trade and economic cooperation.

The speaker called for a more dynamic use of the existing possibilities to boost cooperation between the two countries.

He said an upcoming international conference to study prospects for bilateral cooperation to be held in Moscow in March-April will be a serious step in this direction.

Khasbulatov Views Middle East Tour, START II

LD1001205793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—A delegation of Russian parliamentarians led by Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov returned to Moscow on Sunday [10 January] from the Middle East tour.

Khasbulatov described the visit to Jordan, Israel and Egypt as very successful and strengthening interparliamentary ties.

"We assured our partners that Russia will fulfill its obligations as a sponsor of the Middle East peace conference," Khasbulatov said.

"We are interested that the conflict is settled by political means as soon as possible and are ready to make every effort to achieve this," the speaker said.

Speaking about the START II Strategic Arms Reduction Agreement signed by President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President George Bush last Sunday, Khasbulatov said the treaty needs thorough studying. "It is clear that the parliament will not ratify such complex treaty automatically only because it has already been signed. If we see that this is a breakthrough agreement, which takes into account Russia's interests, there will be no problems with its ratification."

Filatov Heads Supreme Soviet Delegation to London

OW0901133993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Russian Supreme Soviet delegation consisting of 25 members of all parliamentary groups is leaving for London on Saturday [9 January] evening. During their three-week stay in Britain, the Russian visitors will be learning from the experience of the British Parliament.

As decided by the Supreme Soviet Presidium as far back as September 28, 1992, the delegation is headed by Sergey Filatov, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who on Friday evening returned to Moscow after a brief holiday.

Filatov is planning to come back on January 24 since he expects being appointed the President's chief of staff.

Regional Affairs

Chechen President Extends State of Emergency

LD1001184693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy January 10 TASS—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has extended the state of emergency in the republic until February 10 inclusive.

In a decree issued on Sunday, Dudayev said he prolonged the state of emergency because the circumstances which prompted its introduction have not been eliminated yet.

The state of emergency and a curfew were imposed in the republic on November 10, 1992.

Yeltsin Envoy Speaks on Ossetian-Ingush Conflict

OW0801142493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The temporary administration on the territory of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia is considering the possibility of creating a "single-nationality" settlement in the region's Prigorod county, which would be populated either only by Ossetians or Ingush.

This was announced by the Russian president's representative in Ingushetia, Isa Kostoev.

The leaders of the temporary administration think that such a step would stabilize the situation in the region of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, while Kostoev thinks that this would not solve the Ingush problem, "but only create an even more deadlock situation." According to Kostoev, the Ingush living in villages with mixed populations in Prigorod county would never leave their homes. Kostoev thinks that in order to stabilize the situation, federal rule should be introduced in the county and a mixed administration created. Until this is possible, the region should be isolated both from the Ingush and from Northern Ossetia.

"Prigorod county was and remains Ingush territory," Kostoev stated, "since as of today, not a single legislative act exists on tearing it away from Ingushetia after the Ingush were deported in 1944." The reluctance to introduce federal rule in Northern Ossetia's Prigorod county testifies to the general reluctance to enact the Law "On forming the Ingush republic," Kostoev thinks.

On the other hand, the leaders of Northern Ossetia think both the introduction of federal rule in Prigorod county or transferring the county to the Ingush without the consent of the people of Northern Ossetia are inadmissible.

New Acting Head of Ingush Administration Appointed

LD1001112393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 10 (TASS)—Magomet Sultygov has been appointed chief administrator of the Ingush Republic. He will discharge the functions of head of the Ingush administration. This decision was made by Major-General Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the provisional administration on the territories of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic, in connection with the resignation of Ruslan Aushev, acting head of the administration of the Ingush Republic. The latter has been relieved of his duties as chief administrator of the Ingush Republic and head of the Ingush administration.

Alikhan Timurzyev was appointed head of the local administration of Nazran and Magomet Tungoyev—head of the local administration of the Nazran district of Ingushetia by an injunction issued by the head of the provisional administration.

Says Situation Hinges on Refugee Issue

OW1001203993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview with INTERFAX on Sunday the new acting head of the Ingushetian administration, Magomet Sultygov, declared that the situation in the Ossetian-Ingushetian conflict zone cannot be stabilized until the issue concerning the return of the Ingushetian refugees to the places of their permanent residence in the Prigorodny region of North Ossetia is not solved. [sentence as received]

However, it is impossible to do this now, he said, because it is impossible to ensure the security of the Ingushes in this region. The repeated arsons and murders of a small number of the Ingushetian refugees who had returned to their houses testify to this fact.

Sultygov believes that one cannot speak about the stabilization of the situation under conditions when the unsatisfaction of the Ingushes is growing with every passing day due to the absence of concrete steps to ensure the return of the refugees to the Prigorodny region, the return of the hostages, the search of the perished and the missing people. He expressed his fear that the Ingushian people, and especially the youth, cannot endure and the situation can go out of the control. Sultygov said that in the face of these unsolved problems the efforts of the interim administration to establish economic mechanisms in the republic are practically in vain.

According to Sultygov, a mixed military-civil administration or a mixed civil Ossetian-Ingushetian administration under the leadership of the military commandant's office can govern the Prigorodny region after the return of the refugees.

Major General Magomet Sultygov was born in 1944, he was the commander of the air defense forces of the Turkestan military district over the past four years. He took this office after he was transferred from the post of the commander of the army air defense forces stationed in Ukraine. He graduated from the air defense- rocket military college in Orenburg and the academy of the land air defense forces in Kiev.

European Parliament Delegation Visits Chelyabinsk-95

LD1001132893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] A delegation from the European parliament has visited a Russian nuclear center, Chelyabinsk-95, in the Urals. The guests were taken around the town, which is off-limits even to Russians, and shown the process of obtaining plutonium and the modern technology of destroying radioactive waste. For the first time more such waste is being destroyed than arrives for storage. In 1957, due to a breach of the storage technology, a nuclear disaster took place at Chelyabinsk-95 with consequences similar to those of the Chernobyl disaster. Billions of rubles are still spent in that area to give treatment to the radiation sickness sufferers and to restore the (?lands of Russia there) contaminated by radioactive waste.

Tatarstan Delegation Views Cooperation in St Petersburg

LD1001185393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] A Tatarstan delegation led by Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev and Vice Premier (Feliza Akhmadullin) arrived in St. Petersburg on a working visit today. Aleksandr Belyayev, chairman of the City Soviet, and other leaders and people's deputies met the guests in Mariyinskiy Palace. They discussed the improvement of economic and technical cooperation between the two regions. It was decided that a general agreement on cooperation is to be drawn up and signed by next month, ITAR-TASS reports.

International Affairs

Tarasyuk Interviewed on START Ratification

LD0901153793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Interview with B.I. Tarasyuk, Ukrainian deputy foreign minister and chairman of the Ukrainian Disarmament Committee, by correspondent Kalyagin on 9 January; place not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Kalyagin] Talks between representatives of the U.S. Administration and a Ukrainian delegation took place in Washington. Special attention was paid to the problem of nuclear weapons which are being preserved on Ukraine's territory. During his previous visit to Washington, President Kravchuk assured George Bush that Ukraine would become a nuclear-free power. Today, however, Washington is concerned with the fact that the Ukrainian parliament has not so far ratified the START I Treaty, the first treaty on strategic arms. This treaty envisages the liquidation of ballistic missiles and their launch silos situated in Ukraine. Unless that happens, the new historic agreement on reducing nuclear arsenals by two-thirds will remain on paper only. The Ukrainian Government is now putting forward certain conditions for submitting the treaty for parliament's ratification. It insists on granting security guarantees to Ukraine and on material compensation.

What is your concrete vision of security guarantees for Ukraine?

[Tarasyuk] In the course of several months we have been having consultations and negotiations with our partners from the United States, Russia, and Great Britain. We expect that the participants in these talks will make statements outlining main guidelines for guaranteeing Ukraine's national security.

[Kalyagin] Are you also talking about granting a certain amount of compensation to Ukraine?

[Tarasyuk] The issue of compensation is not one of the conditions; however, it will determine the speed of the process of nuclear disarmament, but only if the Ukrainian Government ratifies those treaties.

[Kalyagin] Washington was very reserved in meeting Kiev's wishes. The delegation was reminded that the United States had already allocated $176 million for the dismantling and destruction of nuclear warheads in Ukraine. No further sum so far has been envisaged. As for security guarantees, they might be proposed, but only once the START I Treaty is ratified.

What are your ratification forecasts?

[Tarasyuk] I am an optimist.

Reviews Joint U.S. Talks

LD0901211293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] A Ukrainian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk held consultative meetings in the U.S. State Department last week. The delegation returned to Kiev today.

[Begin Tarasyuk recording] A wide range of political and military-political issues, i.e. the prolongation of that subject matter which had been discussed at the consultations in April last year, were the main issues of these consultations.

Speaking about the subject matter of these consultations, naturally we could not disregard the issue of the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty, the Lisbon Protocol, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as well. Naturally these issues also were on the agenda, but these were not the only issues. We discussed a wide spectrum of Ukrainian-American bilateral relations which were begun during the visit of Ukrainian President Kravchuk to the United States last May.

We were given highest-level confirmation that relations between Ukraine and the United States were a priority for the current administration, and that the current administration would give recommendations to the next administration to continue this policy. [end recording]

Results of Talks 'Reassuring'

OW1001142093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister and chairman of the national disarmament committee, Boris Tarasyuk, has returned from Washington, where he discussed the possibility of granting Kiev guarantees for national security in connection with the upcoming ratification of the START-1 treaty. He described the discussions' results as "reassuring."

According to Tarasyuk, the American leadership is looking forward to the beginning of debates concerning START-1 and the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear arms in Ukraine's Parliament. "Washington expects that the Ukrainian Parliament's answer will be positive," he told Interfax's correspondent over the telephone.

The setting up of a special parliamentary group "designed to envisage in detail the consequences of ratifying START-1 and joining the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons shows that the Ukrainian Parliament has a "serious approach" to this issue," said Tarasyuk. [quotation marks as received]

"We maintain close contacts with the parliamentary group, and our experts give it aid whenever necessary," Boris Tarasyuk pointed out. "As a matter of fact, I

intend to brief the parliamentary group and the leaders of the Parliament on the results of our consultations in Washington."

Earlier, in an interview for the "Golos Ukrainy" newspaper, Boris Tarasyuk said that the USA is willing to allocate 175 million dollars for aid in the efforts to scrap nuclear weapons.

Further on Tarasyuk Comment

OW1001152593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1459 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The American leadership looks forward to the time when the Ukrainian Parliament will begin debates concerning START-1 and the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms, and expects a positive answer from it," Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister and chairman of the national disarmament committee, Boris Tarasyuk, told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. He led his country's delegation at the consultations held in Washington recently.

According to him, the consultations were planned in advance. Their goal was to review and analyse what was achieved in bilateral relations in the past year. The diplomat qualified the allegations that the Ukrainian delegation paid "an emergency visit" to the USA, and that it was connected with START-1 and with the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty, as not true.

Nevertheless, judging from what the diplomat said, these problems were discussed in Washington in detail. For instance, Kiev's envoys briefed President George Bush, for whom they had brought a personal message from President Leonid Kravchuk, on the procedure of considering START-1 and the nuclear nonproliferation treaty by Ukraine's Parliament. "That was a major topic of the talks and consultations held in Washington," B. Tarasyuk conceded.

According to him, the setting up of a special parliamentary group designed to analyse the possible consequences of ratifying START-1 and joining the nuclear nonproliferation treaty shows that the Ukrainian Parliament's approach to the problems of nuclear disarmament is serious. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry maintains "very close contacts" with the group, and its experts give it aid.

Ukraine's deputy foreign minister said that he intends to brief MPs [members of parliament] on the various versions of resolving problems discussed in Washington. This relates to the granting of guarantees for Ukraine's national security. "There is reassuring news in this area," said B. Tarasyuk.

The diplomat found it hard to say whether the Russian-Ukrainian summit planned for this month will be preceded by a meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers. He views a meeting between Anatoliy Zlenko and Andrey Kozyrev as "very desirable", he said, but he is not sure that the two men will be able to find time for it, considering "how busy they are".

According to the press center of Ukraine's Parliament, debates on the ratification of START-1 have been included in the agenda of the session which resumes its work in January.

Delegation Gives News Conference

LD1001230093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] A press conference took place in Kiev on 10 January by the head of the National Committee on Disarmament, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk, and the First Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine Ivan Bizhan.

The press conference was held for representatives of the mass media in connection with the completion of the visit to the U.S. of a Ukrainian delegation which was headed by Borys Tarasyuk. Journalists were informed on the results of the working visit of (the) Ukrainian delegation, which was a return visit to [as heard] the visit of an American delegation which was in Ukraine in April.

As singled out by Borys Tarasyuk, high level consultations were held in the United States on political and military issues. Also analyzed were the achievements and shortcomings of Ukrainian-American relations in 1992. Besides this recommendations and proposals were worked out for the future.

The Ukrainian delegation was received by the U.S. President George Bush in the White House. Borys Tarasyuk also met with representatives of the new American Administration. One of the key issues discussed during the consultations was the content and form of granting guarantees for the national security of Ukraine.

START I Depends on Nonaggression Pact

AU1101080893 Paris AFP in English 0004 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Kiev, Jan 10 (AFP)—Ukraine will not ratify the START 1 treaty on nuclear arms cuts until it has signed non-aggression pacts with the other major nuclear powers, Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk said here Sunday [10 January].

Speaking on his return from Washington, and a little more than a week after U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the more extensive START 2 treaty, Tarasyuk claimed that America, Russia and Britain were already discussing the signing of such pacts.

Ukraine, which inherited 1,650 nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Union, has undertaken to respect the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (1) [START 1] of July 1991 which committed the Americans and Soviets to cut their nuclear arsenals by 30 percent.

While the Kiev government has said it aims to turn Ukraine into a nuclear-free state, it also has a running argument with Moscow about Russia's disposal of nuclear warheads Ukraine has been handing over.

Kiev has said it would either like to hold on to the warheads' nuclear materials—which can be used for peaceful purposes—or it would like Russia to pay for them.

The Ukrainian parliament would not begin to discuss the START I ratification until Moscow has settled this issue, Tarasyuk said.

Ukraine will negotiate with Russia about this on January 20, the deputy minister added.

Defense Ministry on Draft Nuclear Agreement With Russia

LD0901165293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] In their appeals to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, people's deputies have recently been expressing their concern in respect of the contents of a draft agreement between Ukraine and Russia in issues of strategic nuclear weapons. The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry is authorized to state that the draft agreement, which was sent for consideration from Moscow, is an instance of wishful thinking and is another attempt to give a trial to Ukraine's firmness in the issue of the presence of nuclear weapons on its territory. It is noted in the statement that the Ministry of Defense defends the interests of Ukraine and consistently puts them into practice.

Kravchuk To Begin Visit to Israel 11 Jan

LD1001172293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Tomorrow, 11 January, President Kravchuk will begin an official visit to Israel. The president's press service reports that during the three-day visit a package of Ukrainian-Israeli documents will be signed, among them a memorandum on relations between Ukraine and Israel, and inter-state treaties on cooperation in the spheres of education, science, culture, and also air links. In addition a protocol will be signed on consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Leonid Kravchuk will take part in the opening ceremony of the Ukrainian Embassy in the State of Israel. It is envisaged that the visiting delegation will include representatives of Ukrainian business circles and emigres.

To Meet Israel's Ukrainians

OW1101130093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk on Monday [11 January] left for Israel. Several documents will be signed during his three-day visit, namely a memorandum, agreements on cooperation in education, science, culture, and air transportation, and a protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries of the two states.

The President will also be meeting with Israeli businessmen and members of Israel's Ukrainian-born community, which is over 200,000 strong.

He will also attend the opening ceremony for the Ukrainian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Kravchuk is accompanied on his journey by Deputy Prime Minister Yuliy Ioffe, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, Culture Minister Ivan Dzyuba, Agriculture Minister Yuriy Karasyk, Transport Minister Orest Klympush, and Chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee Sergey Ryabchenko.

Welcomed by Foreign Minister

LD1101134993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv January 11 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has arrived in Israel on an official visit today. In the Ben Gurion Airport he was welcomed by the Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

During a three-day visit Kravchuk will hold talks with Israeli leaders on a number of international problems, including the situation in the Middle East.

Considerable attention will be devoted to the development of bilateral relations, primarily in the economic sphere. The Ukrainian president is expected to meet representatives of Israeli business circles and Israeli residents of Ukrainian descent.

During the visit a package of documents is expected to be signed, including a memorandum on fundamentals of mutual relations and cooperation between Ukraine and Israel, which will be the first document to provide a legal basis for the development of bilateral ties.

Yukhnovskyy Holds News Conference on Oil, Gas Supplies

AU0801185893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Jan 93 p 6

[Report by Andriy Boyechko: "What Are We Going To Pay for Oil?"]

[Text] Yesterday, at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, First Vice Prime Minister Ihor Yukhnovskyy held a news conference. It dealt with the results of the meeting held between our governmental delegation and representatives of the executive power of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan shortly before the New Year.

In the course of the trip and during the negotiations, mutual understanding was reached on supplies of materials and products, as well as on financial settlements between states. The National Banks of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan opened karbovanets accounts for Ukraine's National Bank.

It was agreed that 2 million tonnes of oil will be purchased from Kazakhstan on the clearing and barter basis.

Regarding Turkmenistan gas, so far, only its price has been agreed upon: 10,000 rubles [R] per 1,000 cubic meters. As for the volumes of supplies, they will be specified after Ukraine returns its debt—R6 billion—for 1992 to Turkmenistan.

The news conference also discussed work on the project "Ukryttya- 2" [shelter] for the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant, division of debts and assets of the former USSR, and preparation for the meeting between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine that is expected to be held in the middle of January.

National Affairs

Parliament To Discuss START II, Non-Proliferation

LD0901175093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The presidium of the Ukrainian Parliament has decided to consider the issues related to ratifying the START treaty and of Ukraine joining the nuclear armaments non-proliferation treaty as a matter of priority. This was announced at the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's press center. As previously reported, disarmament issues were discussed in Washington by Ukraine's government delegation.

Denies Ostankino Allegations

LD0901213393 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Assertions by Ostankino TV journalists about Ukraine allegedly delaying the ratification of the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction treaty and about this issue allegedly not being included by the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine in priority examination are absolutely groundless. This is reported by the press center of the Supreme Council.

In fact, at a sitting of the Presidium of the Supreme Council, held on 5 January this year, the issue of the ratification of the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction treaty and of joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was also singled out as one of the priority issues among those requiring immediate examination by the session of the Supreme Council.

What is more, Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the supreme council of Ukraine, spoke at a sitting of the Presidium about work connected to the preparation for examining these documents at the session.

A special working group of deputies has been set up, documents are being examined in permanent commissions, and these issues require a thorough analysis of what the consequences of the ratification will be for Ukraine and its security.

The public has an understanding attitude toward this.

Zaporozhye, Ternopol Oblasts To Support Black Sea Fleet

LD0901063293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Representatives of the state administration councils of Zaporozhye and Ternopol oblasts, the city of Sevastopol, and the Command of the Ukrainian Navy signed an agreement on cooperation in Ternopol today. The aim of the accord is to facilitate the building of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It was also agreed that Ternopol and Zaporozhye oblasts would be sponsors for the Black Sea Fleet. They will offer the Fleet material assistance and provide it with literature and periodicals.

The delegations agreed to coordinate their actions in the Supreme Council and the Cabinet of Ministers on issues concerning support for Sevastopol and the building of the Ukrainian Navy.

Attempts To Privatize Black Sea Fleet Counter Accords

LD1001221593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan—Today a group of officers of the Ukrainian Navy made an attempt to transfer the Black Sea Fleet Polyclinic No. 110 to the Republican War Department, on the basis of the directive of a Ukrainian deputy minister of defense, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press center of the Black Sea Fleet.

According to the press center's information, on 31 December 1992, representatives of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense made a unit of servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet Artillery Brigade Shore Troops' Division take the oath. A first deputy of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense signed the directive on the Brigade forming part of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On 3 January 1993, the press center announced, a group of officers of the Ukrainian Navy, headed by Commander of the Navy Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin were at Izmail Garrison. According to the report by Captain First Class Valeriy Pomazan, commander of the Izmail River Launch Brigade, the said group declared a house built for servicemen of the garrison to be the property of the Ukrainian Navy. At the same time, according to Valeriy Pomazan's report, Boris Kozhin openly declared that the signature of the Ukrainian president under the Yalta Agreement on the Black Sea Fleet was of no guidance to him. That agreement, the rear admiral said, was signed to the detriment of the people of Ukraine and his task remained the same as before—to transfer the whole Black Sea Fleet to the jurisdiction of Ukraine from below, without waiting for a resolution of the question at a political level.

The representative of the press center of the Black Sea Fleet stressed that all these facts testify to the desire of the Ukraine Ministry of Defense to subordinate the Fleet to itself unilaterally, without waiting for a resolution of the Black Sea Fleet question at a political level, thus excluding the very subject of the talks. This course contradicts the provisions of the Yalta and Dagomys Agreements on the Black Sea Fleet, signed by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine.

Nuclear Policy Commission Formed, Chairman Named

AU0801152793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Jan 93 p 6

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on the Commission for Questions of Nuclear Policy" issued in Kiev on 3 January]

[Text] To elaborate scientifically grounded proposals regarding forming the state nuclear policy and mechanisms for its implementation, I decree as follows:

1. To create a Commission for Questions of Nuclear Policy subordinated to Ukraine's president.

2. To appoint BARYAKHTAR, Viktor Hryhorovych, as chairman of the Commission for Questions of Nuclear Policy.

3. The main tasks of the Commission for Questions of Nuclear Policy are as follows:

—preparation of recommendations for forming the state nuclear policy;

—analysis of drafts of normative acts on questions of utilizing nuclear energy;

—assessment of the conformity of concepts and programs for the development of the nuclear energy complex to international requirements and norms;

—consideration of new design and technical solutions in the sphere of the utilization of nuclear energy, including international projects that are significant for Ukraine and elaboration of corresponding proposals proceeding from them.

4. To approve the composition of the Commission for Questions of Nuclear Policy in conformity with the supplement.

5. V.G. Baryakhtar must, within one month, submit Regulations on the Commission for Questions of Nuclear Policy.

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine

[Dated] Kiev, 3 January 1993

IAEA To Organize Permanent Control at Nuclear Plant

LD1001144493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] will have its own eye at the Rivne nuclear power plant. The agency has taken a decision to organize at the station a permanent control over transporting, reception, storage, loading of nuclear fuel, unloading of the worked-off fuel, and its dispatching for utilization. The intention emerged in connection with a desire of this authoritative international body to take the Rivne nuclear power plant under its guarantee. This process was preceded by an expertise [as heard] held by experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Kravchuk Warns Crimean Separatists of 'Consequences'

OW1001204193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [10 January] the Ukrainian Interior Ministry officially warned the supporters of the reunification of the Crimean Republic with Russia concerning the consequences of their illegal actions.

The statement cites that the republican Interior Ministry "is ready to undertake decisive measures against the persons whose actions lead to the destabilization of the situation in Sevastopol and in Ukraine as a whole." The premises for the statement were the events which occurred on January 7 in Sevastopol; the board of the republican Interior Ministry reported that the celebration of the Christmas in the central square of Sevastopol "was turned into an unauthorized meeting and a march

along the central streets of the city with the Russian flags and separatist slogans by the destructive elements headed by the chairman of the commission of the Sevastopol city council and the deputy of the Crimean Republic, Aleksander Kruglov." The statement notes that the participants of the meeting who blocked the traffic did not obey the demands of the law enforcement bodies. The statement stressed there were no grave consequences only thanks to the operative actions of the militia.

The board of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry reported that it is solving the issue to bring an action against the organizers of the meeting.

Appearing in Ivano-Frankovsk earlier, Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian President, pointed out that the republic would use the might of the laws against those political forces which "want to return Ukraine to the slavery." Kravchuk underlined that these forces are not numerous in the republic and the authorities are controlling their activity.

Ministry Condemns 'Unauthorized' Rally

LD1101120393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] An unauthorized rally was staged by destructive forces in Sevastopol during the celebration of Christmas on 7 January. There were gross violations of public order. The functioning of public transportation was obstructed for a long time.

In connection with these events, the Collegium of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has made an appeal to the citizens of Ukraine. "The personnel of bodies and units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs resolutely condemns the illegitimate activities of organizers and participants of unauthorized actions in Sevastopol," the appeal states.

"A warning is hereby given that we shall take resolute measures against those causing the further destabilization of the situation and a deepening of the crisis situation both in Sevastopol and in Ukraine in general."

The collegium has called on all the citizens irrespective of their convictions to abide strictly by the laws of independent Ukraine and to do everything possible for peace and accord to reign in our state.

Defense Ministry Rejects Accusations by Deputies

AU0801193093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Jan 93 p 7

[Statement by the Ministry of Defense Press Service in Kiev; date not given: "Ukraine's Army Has Its Leadership and Is in the State of Combat Readiness"]

[Text] At the end of last year, a meeting of the collegium of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense took place under the chairmanship of Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, acting minister of defense. In addition to other issues, an appeal to Ukraine's Supreme Council Presidium by People's Deputies Valeriy Izmalkov, Viktor Slyusarenko, Oleksiy Prychkin, and others (155 signatures altogether) was discussed. The appeal contained accusations aimed against the Ministry of Defense and personally Colonel General K. Morozov, Ukraine's minister of defense.

In connection with this appeal, the Collegium of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense adopted a statement categorically rejecting all accusations brought by the people's deputies.

The Collegium of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense assures that, despite the counteraction on the part of the former USSR Ministry of Defense and Main Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, in 1992, Ukraine's own Armed Forces were created and, today, they have their leadership, manifest combat readiness, and are capable of fulfilling tasks on defending Ukraine's sovereignty, state independence, and territorial integrity. The Collegium of the Ministry of Defense also categorically stated that the principle of departicization is being consecutively adhered to and implemented in the army and that ideas of self-sufficient value of personality are the ideological principles for indoctrinating the personnel.

Cabinet Issues Decree on Export of Certain Goods

LD0901062293

[Editorial Report] Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian at 1538 GMT on 5 January carries a "Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the establishment of a special regime for the export of certain types of goods." UKRINFORM reports that the decree states the following:

"With the aim of protecting state economic interests, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers resolves:

"1. To establish that the export of goods from the accompanying list can be carried out by persons involved in external economic activity and specially authorized for this by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers at the suggestion of the Ukrainian minister of external economic relations.

"The export of these goods beyond the boundaries of Ukraine by the said persons is to be carried out only after the registration of a contract for their export at the Ministry of External Economic Relations of Ukraine.

"2. The Ukrainian State Customs Committee is to ensure the strict observance of the clauses in the present decree.

"The present decree comes into force from the day of its publication.

[Signed] "Prime Minister of Ukraine, L. Kuchma

"Minister to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, A. Lobov

[Dated] "City of Kiev, 26 December 1992."

* * *

The goods affected by the decree are then listed as follows: nonferrous metals; raw materials for producing nonferrous metals; rare and rare earth metals, including secondary [vtorichnyy] metals; their alloys; powders; semifinished products; rolled nonferrous metals; scrap and by-products [otkhody] of nonferrous metals; ores and concentrates of precious metals; precious metals in a colloidal state; organic and inorganic compounds of precious metals of definite and indefinite chemical composition; amalgams of precious metals; coal; oil products; oils and other products of oil refining; natural gases and gas derivatives; hydrocarbons and others; electric power; precious and semi-precious gems; and precious metals.

Parties, Movements Appeal for Ukraine To Remain in CIS

LD1001182493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk January 10 TASS—Representatives of a number of political parties and public movements held a consultative meeting in Donetsk today to protest against the idea of Ukraine's withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Representatives of Ukraine's Civil Congress, the Ukrainian Labour Party, the Ukrainian Council of Work Collectives, the Inter-regional Association of Entrepreneurs, the Party of Slavic Unity and other parties and movements adopted an appeal to the Councils of People's Deputies of all levels, work collectives, public organisations and citizens of Ukraine.

The appeal stressed that the idea of Ukraine's secession from the Commonwealth is backed by nationalist forces close to the government, such as Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka]. This move is being prepared despite the fact that the isolationist police has already driven the country into a blind alley. The prices of essentials are now two or three times higher in Ukraine than in Russia, Belarus or Kazakhstan. The separation of Ukraine from the Commonwealth will result in mass poverty and destruction because its economy is closely linked with the national economies of other Commonwealth countries.

Participants in the consultative meeting in Donetsk called on Ukrainian citizens to voice their support for the Commonwealth at meetings of their work collectives and public organisations.

Decree Sets New Deadline for Adding Passport Entries

AU0801200593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Jan 93 p 6

["Ukrainian Presidential Directive on Terms for Implementing Item 2 of Ukrainian Presidential Directive No. 60 of 18 April 1992" issued in Kiev on 30 December]

[Text] To extend, until 1 July 1993, the deadline for entering into valid [internal] passports of Ukraine's citizens and identity cards of servicemen of Ukraine's Armed Forces corresponding additions stipulated by item 2 of Ukrainian Presidential Directive No. 60 of 18 April 1992 "On Speeding Up the Implementation of Ukraine's Law on Ukraine's Citizenship."

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, Ukraine president

[Dated] Kiev, 29 December 1992

Kravchuk Replaces Power Engineering Minister

AU0801151793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Jan 93 p 6

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Ukraine's Minister of Power Engineering and Electrification" issued in Kiev on 3 January]

[Text] To appoint HRYTSENKO, Anatoliy Vasylyovych, as Ukraine's minister of Power Engineering and Electrification, having relieved SKLYAROV, Vitaliy Fedorovych, from these duties in connection with his retirement to pension.

[Signed] Ukraine President L. Kravchuk

[Dated] Kiev, 3 January 1993

Government Adopts Resolution on Wages, Payments Increase

WS0801133993 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Report attributed to the press service of the Ukrainian prime minister: "Wages, Monetary Payments—Higher Level"]

[Text] According to the resolution of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, there are plans to take measures in connection with the increase of the minimum wage.

Institutions and organizations, financed fully or partially by the budget (apart from those whose pay scales have been determined by the Supreme Soviet) will have to increase the state wage rates of employees according to the new minimum wage. The sources for financing these expenses and the procedure for recalculating these rates will be determined by the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Finance. On 1 January, 1993, the ministries

also have to elaborate and introduce a single wage scale for institutions and organizations supported by the budget.

Unsubsidized enterprises, organizations, and institutions should ensure that the state guaranteed minimum wage is observed, while ministries and departments should establish control over it.

Beginning on 1 November 1992, the relief rates for families with children will be revised. For example, three times the minimum wage will be paid to a family on the birth of every child.

One hundred percent of the relief will be paid to working mothers with a one year length of service, mothers below 18 regardless of their length of service, and to full time students with children below three. On bearing two or more children, relief will be paid for each child. The same kind of payments will be received by the children of active servicemen, children cared for by guardians, children of single parents, and children below three if their mothers lost their jobs due to the liquidation of the enterprise, institution, or organization.

Relief amounting to 50 percent of the minimum wage is granted to mothers with less than one year of service with children below three, for nonworking mothers with children below two, for single mothers with children below 16 (below 18, if a child is a student and receives no scholarship), for children below 18 whose parents neglect to pay alimony, or in other cases, envisioned by the law, when such allowances cannot be paid.

The payments will be made at the place of mother's main employment (father's or guardian's employment if the mother is not employed, or if the child has no parents). In all other cases, payments will be made at social security offices based on the residence of parents, children, or guardians.

Monthly compensations amounting to 750 coupons will be paid to nonworking, able bodied persons, if they care for a severely disabled person, or a disabled child below 16, or for a person above 80.

The Ministry of Labor, in accordance with departments and trade unions, must adopt new scholarship rates for students of higher educational institutions, graduate students, persons with master's degrees working on doctor of science degree, and students of special and vocational schools.

Enterprises, institutions, and organizations are charged with the revision of the rates of payments calculated on the basis of average monthly wages, and the rates of compensations to employees for maiming or other health damage, which occurred during the performance of an employee's duties.

It has been established that social insurance burial payments will amount to five times the minimum wage.

Belarus

Minister on Strategic Arms Withdrawal, Neutrality

WS0801133093 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1356 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] "More than 100 countries have recognized the Republic of Belarus today. We have established diplomatic relations with 80 of them. Our state has become a full member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and a member of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other international financial organizations. It has also accepted a UN/UNDP office," informed Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanko.

Characterizing the program of priorities in foreign policy for the current year, the minister singled out the move toward a nuclear-free status and neutrality which is implemented in strict accordance with the declaration.

"Nuclear tactical weapons have been completely withdrawn from Belarus," reminded P. Kravchanko. "Having become a member of the START-I Agreement and the Lisbon Protocol, the Republic has committed itself to withdraw strategic arms within seven years; although, this may happen sooner. We intend to keep a distance from the membership in different military and political blocs in the future. Belarus can become truly neutral only when the new Europe belongs to no blocs, when NATO, like the Warsaw Pact, is nonexistent, and when the free movement of ideas, people, capital, commodities, and services becomes an everyday reality.

"Another, no less important task for the near future is the European Community's economic and political integration through the preservation and strengthening of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the only form of economic survival under the current circumstances. We are convinced that two parallel European economic formations will develop and gradually draw closer to each other in the coming considerably lengthy period—the EC and what relatively can be called the East European Economic Community in formation. For Belarus, it is not so much a civilized form of economic 'divorce,' but a possibility to create a new quality in life and to prepare together with other CIS states for joining the European market."

Army Holds First Oath-Taking Ceremony

PM0801141193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by Aleksey Guretskiy and Anatoliy Sinegubov, identified by caption, from Belarus]

[Text] [Guretskiy] The establishment of the Belarusian National Army began with this first oath-taking ceremony and will proceed without undue haste through several stages.

At the moment the Republic is literally over-saturated with troops. In Ukraine, for example, there are half as many servicemen, in Kazakhstan a third as many servicemen, and in Russia almost 15 times fewer servicemen per 1,000 inhabitants. However, according to the leader of the republic's military department, the creation of the Belarusian Army does not just envisage the disbandment of surplus formations. After all, the cuts will affect 20,000 officers, and, specifically, every other general.

Many servicemen returning from Germany are moving into new housing in Belarus. Currently, three military townlets are about to be commissioned. They comprise 1,000 fully-fitted apartments each. Two more are nearing completion. As of 1 January rates of rank-related pay are being doubled, new pension legislation is coming into force, and every serviceman who wants to find his own housing will be granted preferential credit.

If during the oath-taking today the atmosphere in Army units is businesslike and down-to-earth rather than showy, it must mean that the Army's acute problems and sensitive issues are being resolved fairly and harmoniously.

Defense Minister Comments on Army Creation

WS0801134993 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 5 Dec 92 p 1

["Monologue" by Colonel-General Pawel Kozlovskiy, Belarusian defense minister, narrated to VO SLAVU RODINY correspondent Major A. Ilkiv: "We Are Not Stepchildren of the State"—first two paragraphs are introduction, last four paragraphs are summation]

[Text] The last meeting of the defense minister with representatives of the meetings of officers has enabled Colonel-General P. Kozlovskiy to clarify the policy of the Defense Ministry on the issue of Army creation and the social protection of servicemen and their families. Perhaps there will be those who do not agree with the defense minister, but at least Colonel-General P. Kozlovskiy has swept aside all the rumors around the future Belarusian Army and was sincere in his answers to the numerous questions.

We offer the monologue of the defense minister in a free narration to our correspondent, who was present at the meeting.

Honor Is Not an Empty Word

Our Army is living through hard times. Belarusian servicemen have a vague vision of tomorrow. Consequently, they are inert and indifferent, especially officers and warrant officers. We should not take such a situation

for granted. The Belarusian Army should take in active service all those who want to serve and link their destiny with the Army.

Meetings of officers in the units and their Army Coordinating Committee should help our officers to be aware of the state and public need for their service. Meetings of officers in the Soviet Army concentrated on narrow issues. We should avoid this error. Meetings of officers should protect officers' interests. As for the Army Coordinating Committee, it should inform the servicemen about the current state of affairs in the Belarusian Supreme Council, Cabinet of Ministers, and Defense Ministry, and of their stand on different issues. It is high time to destroy the information vacuum in the units and formations. By March 1993, all the officers will have an assessment of their professional qualities. This measure should not be used for settling scores with undesirable persons. This will be the next task of the meetings of officers—to prevent this type of arbitrary behavior. All conclusions of the assessment committees should be sanctioned by decisions of the meetings of officers.

I would like to mention one more meaningful action in the work of this public organ. For quite a long time, mass media have been feeding us with tales about embezzlements and corruption in the Army. We did not conceal these shameful facts and carried out decisive measures to resolve them. But one must not defame the entire Army. Our Army personnel are primarily honest and scrupulous servicemen who do not deserve charges of embezzlement and corruption.

In Turn or By Credit?

The Belarusian legislature has already adopted a number of "military" laws and we are already entitled to speak about the development of a legal basis for the Belarusian Armed Forces. One should note that the Law "On the Statute of Servicemen," despite a serious difference of opinion among people's deputies, was adopted in the same form as it had been proposed by the Defense Ministry. We can be rather optimistic, because the paragraphs had not been greatly changed.

We are currently working on the Cabinet of Ministers' decree on housing for servicemen. What are the main points of this decree? The government guarantees housing facilities to those servicemen who are currently waiting for an apartment. There are about 15,000 to 16,000 such servicemen in our Republic. This problem must be solved within two years.

The remaining servicemen, including Belarusian servicemen returning from the troubled regions of the former USSR, must solve their housing problems themselves. They will get a 40-year term bank credit for building houses with 50-75 percent loan repayment.

As for the prospects for building housing for servicemen, we will create an official housing fund. This fund will provide a relatively painless service rotation of personnel through Belarusian garrisons. Upon joining the service, a lieutenant will sign a housing contract and allot a definite sum to this fund. Two years before transfer to the reserves, a serviceman will choose a locality where he would like to be granted his permanent housing.

Considering the fact that the government will allow the servicemen to buy apartments and houses as personal property, I think that our housing program will provide fixed social guarantees for Belarusian servicemen and not leave our pensioners unhoused. The government is currently considering an increase in monetary compensations to officers and warrant officers for renting an apartment. We expect this sum to increase up to 2,000 rubles plus 25 percent of the sum for each member of the family.

What About Crossing Swords?

The Law "On the Pensions of Servicemen" has been adopted in the first reading. It was easily passed by the legislature. Perhaps "swords will be crossed" at the second reading. What I mean is that people's deputies are quite unaware of the specifics of military service and support leveling the civil and military pensions. Everything depends on the public coffers which, as we know, are empty.

Nevertheless, the key figures which determine the living conditions of our servicemen have been retained in the draft law. The deputies agreed to give pensions to servicemen with 20 years of service at the rate of 50 percent of their salaries. A 3 percent increase is added for each year beyond those 20 years of service. The most important thing is that these increases will be calculated based on the entire sum of officers' or warrant officers' allowances. That is, allowances for ranks and positions as well as other compensation will be considered. Such a motivation as conscientious attitude toward work and professional duty will come into play. In addition, we can count on the young people who will consider the Army as a perfect possibility not only to satisfy their professional interests and ambitions, but also to solve their material needs.

You Must Be a Citizen

It is no secret that the issue of swearing the oath of allegiance to Belarusian people on 31 December is still on the agenda in our units and formations. I am quite aware of the fact that some officers and warrant officers have been unable to adapt to the new realities. Others view this oath as an obstruction to the accomplishment of their life ambitions. But each of us must define his stance. At the same time, the Defense Ministry will not discriminate against servicemen who refuse to take the oath.

It will not be a difficult problem to obtain Belarusian citizenship for officers and warrant officers who came to Belarus before 18 October 1992 when the Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" was adopted. Those officers and warrant officers who came to Belarus later and want to continue their service on our territory

will not be left to the mercy of fate. They must only submit an application to the Belarusian Supreme Council chairman to grant them Belarusian citizenship. In other words, it is very simple for the servicemen to be granted Belarusian citizenship.

Those officers and warrant officers who would like to leave Belarus after a full term of their active service will have to sign contracts. This document is being developed. Proceeding from this, I can conclude that we will not compel the officers to take the oath. We are eager to solve all the issues in a civilized way for the sake of the people.

The fears of some servicemen that our Army will be staffed with only Belarusians are ungrounded. We are not creating a National Army but the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus. The main criteria for promotion of officers are their professional and personal qualities, and not nationality.

A Serviceman is a Non-Party Member

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus are under huge pressure from different political parties and organizations. The Army should be engaged in military training and not take part in political mischief. We will not allow this to happen. Especially, as the Army leaders finds support within our government.

We are often blamed for lack of contacts and cooperation with the numerous political and social organizations. Eventually, I would like to clarify our stance. First, our Army as a constituent part of the state should stay outside of politics. Second, the activity of all the political parties within the Armed Forces should be prohibited, and Belarusian servicemen should not be members of any political organizations.

As for cooperation and interaction, our Defense Ministry is ready to communicate with various organizations, parties, and associations providing that they are civil groups. I am sure that our position is straightforward: we are ready to cooperate but refuse to be under anyone's influence.

I cannot but speak about one more delicate issue, namely religion. We are already used to seeing priests in our units and formations. To my mind, this is normal. But what are we to do if representatives of other religions (not Orthodox Church) aspire to be our guests?

The defense ministry has never dealt with religious issues. We live in a secular state. In addition, we will not finance church activities from the Army budget. Consequently, creed is an individual's personal concern. So, our Army ensures freedom of worship for everyone.

A serviceman can visit church and perform religious ceremonies voluntarily in his spare time. We will not deliver ranks of soldiers to the Catholic or Orthodox Church.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the meeting of Colonel-General P. Kozlovskiy with the representatives of the officers' body was of a great importance. Our servicemen realized that they were not left alone with their problems, and their destiny is of concern to the state.

It goes without saying that in the situation of a total lack of goods and services, our Army is experiencing great difficulties. But the Belarusian Army will not be among the stepchildren of the state. By 1995, the Belarusian Armed Forces will acquire its authorized strength and permanent staff structure. While solving strategic tasks, we should think about the future but consider first a real person. "Military" laws which had been adopted by the legislature ensure partial social security and material wellbeing for Belarusian servicemen. We can only hope that they will be fully implemented.

Who does the implementation of "military" laws depend on? To my mind, on the servicemen themselves who must become active members of the law-abiding state.

The newspaper VO SLAVU RODINY gave enough space for publication of our current "military" laws. In the future, we are also going to interpret and clarify all the vague paragraphs from legal documents for our readers.

Minsk May Become Site of All Future CIS Meetings

WS0801133393 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1356 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] It is possible that all future meetings among the heads and the governments of the CIS states will be held solely in Minsk, which is the seat of the headquarters of the CIS coordinating office. This is the wish that the presidents of the CIS republics expressed at their previous meeting. Certainly, the final decision will be adopted after the ordinary meeting on 22 January which is expected to sign the CIS Statutes at the top level. According to politicians' forecasts, the Statutes will give the CIS a second "wind" and will become a legal basis for the future development and strengthening of cooperation among the republics.

The head of Belarus, like the majority of the deputies, considers that the CIS has prospects. Certainly, Belarus' attitude toward the Commonwealth, born on its territory a year ago, is exceptional. The headquarters of the CIS coordinating office are situated here. Thus, Belarus is doing everything possible to make its work effective. More than 250 interstate agreements started their lives here over one year age. As Grigoriy Tishkevich, deputy coordinator of the working group, told a BELINFORM correspondent, the working group and the experts feel constant support from the state for their activities. Stanislav Shushkevich and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich have proposed valuable initiatives designed to strengthen political, economic, and cultural interrelations among the CIS states. The Republic is aware of its

responsibility for the fate of the CIS and intends to do everything possible to ensure the future development of these relations in the interests and for the benefit of all CIS member states.

Officials Assess Cooperation With China

WS0801133193 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1356 GMT 6 Jan 93

["Belarus—China: the Great Wall Is Not an Obstacle"—BELINFORM headline]

[Text] How can cooperation between Belarus and China be assessed today? First of all, it should be noted that the agreements on the establishment of diplomatic relations and on trade and economic relations between the two countries were signed during the visit of our government delegation to the PRC a year ago. China opened its embassy and trade mission in Minsk. As for the trade and economic contacts, figures can illustrate this best of all. Foreign trade with China currently constitutes about 2.5 to 3 percent of total foreign trade, and China is not in the top 20 countries with which Belarus maintains business relations. Potential possibilities of both countries are much greater. Potassic and nitric fertilizers, freight cars, and rolled steel dominate the exports, while consumer goods and spare parts for cars and tractors—the imports. Joint ventures are not abundant; only four of them have been registered on the territory of Belarus. These are: "Titan", specializing in the development of industrial capacities for the production of installations for covering cars, tractors, and agricultural vehicles with plasmatic coating; "Byaochzhun"—in the production of the Chinese cosmetic cold cream; "Kemkit"—in clothing, footwear, processing of agricultural produce, housing construction and repair, wholesale, retail, and foreign economic activities; and "Mistaki"—in the organization of sales and fairs and the implementation of technological achievements in the economy.

The Belarusian State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations points to the absence of freely convertible currency in both countries as the main problem hampering closer cooperation.

Shutdown of Independent TV Channel Sparks Protest

LD0901071193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Leonid Sviridov in Minsk]

[Text] The citizens of Belarus received a singular New Year gift: The government has terminated the programs of four independent TV companies—(?Aramas-TV), (?TMK), (?Veneda), and (?MM4)—which transmitted programs on Channel 8 throughout last year. Belarus has never had a wide choice of TV programs; Channel 1 is occupied by national TV, Channel 2 by Ostankino, and Channel 3 by Russian TV. Therefore, the arrival of a new TV channel that offered a wide variety of Soviet, Western, and American films as well as children's cartoons and other features was regarded by viewers as a good alternative to the state's programs.

But that is the whole point. The propaganda material which was supposed to reach the ordinary citizen via the state television service never got to its destination. Viewers preferred films on Channel 8 to state-sponsored news programs on the state's own channel. About 2 million residents of the Belarusian capital and the surrounding region have been deprived of yet another opportunity to receive and disseminate information independent of state control, and almost 100 employees who used to prepare the programs have lost their jobs. The same process is going on in the provinces. Commercial TV channels are being closed down there as well.

Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich sent a personal letter to the minister of information, the minister of communications and information technology, and municipal authorities asking them to carry out an urgent review of the contracts with the private TV companies. But Belarus Communications Minister Ivan Gritskuk clearly took his instructions too seriously, going so far as to close Channel 8 altogether. His justification—poor picture quality—was extremely trite.

State officials are claiming that the channel has not actually been closed down. Transmissions have merely been suspended, they say. Alas, this changes nothing for me, an ordinary TV viewer. At an urgently convened news conference, representatives of the authorities spoke, for some reason, about the moral dimension of the films which were being screened, even trying to draw a dividing line between erotica and pornography.

Representatives of the TV companies explained that their business requires large investment and that long-term guarantees are needed for its development since the transmission frequency belongs to the state. The curious thing is that the private companies have already paid the lease on screen time for as far ahead as 1995.

However, the ministry official responsible for overseeing the Belarusian press, Mr. (Povolyayev), assured the TV journalists attending the news conference that if the authorities and the private companies manage to reach an agreement by the end of January, Belarus' Channel 8 will be back on the air again.

Moldova

Parliament President Condemns Idea of Referendum

AU0901185493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1737 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/1/1993—The recent statements of the president of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur about the organization of a referendum in the republic on its future are denounced by the president of the Moldovan Parliament Alexandru Mosanu in an

interview to Chisinau Radio, published by Bucharest daily newspaper MERIDIAN.

"I should like to point out—said Mr. Mosanu—that this statement set us back on the road to our goal. We state that we wish to consolidate independence and maintain the republic's integrity, but how can we do that if we start a fight between the Moldovans?"

Mr. Mosanu opined that the reaction following President Snegur's statement will have negative consequences on the events at the beginning of 1993. The referendum, he said, was not sanctioned by anyone, and the meetings that are taking place in all districts, villages, enterprises—centering around one single issue, that of backing President Snegur's statement—"only lead to the people's disunion and that of society as a whole."

What kind of a referendum is it going to be? asks Alexandru Mosanu. On what territory? Why do we need a referendum at all? Why has this discussion been imposed on us in the first place? "Our entrance into the CIS is desired"—is Mr. Mosanu's answer, and he points out that "the president wants a sanction for what he has done through his own signature. This means we become part of the new empire. These are the plans of the chauvinists and separatists of all kinds. And we should therefore be willing to put on the yoke again. This will be a course which will deny us any possibility to solve any of our problems."

Mr. Mosanu opined that "1993 will be a decisive year for Moldova. Two lines confront each other now: we either keep our independence and integrity relying on Romania—and if our true brother supports us we stand every chance to keep them—or we turn our backs on Romania and start making referendums of disunion with our brothers...If the people support that line very bad things will happen in our republic, with grave consequences for our present and future."

"The events—Mr. Mosanu went on—have demonstrated that our only allies are our brothers. What would have happened to us during the military Dniester conflict if we had not had the help of our brothers across the Prut? We could have been simply trampled upon. And that help was multilateral and continues now too."

In that context Alexandru Mosanu underscored that for the immediate future Moldova will have to drop any kind of referendum, maintain the course stated in the declaration of independence of August 1991, know how to choose its friends and develop relations with all the countries that recognize it not only in words but in deeds too. It must develop relations in all fields with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, sign treaties but see that they are based on the principles of equality and observance of mutual interests.

"Relations with Romania—Mr. Mosanu added—have a special character. We must carry out an activity of multilateral integration. That is the only way we can solve economic, social, cultural or other problems, that is the only way we can attain the goals we set for ourselves."

Intelligentsia Congress Rejects Referendum

AU1001192893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1634 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 10/1/1993—The attendance of the first Congress of the Moldovan Intelligentsia has adopted a draft declaration referring, among other things, to the sudden deterioration of the social-political situation in the republic, threatening its independence.

The declaration assesses that internal and external conservative forces have turned the union (with Romania) into a reason to frighten the population, that such forces are nostalgic about the Soviet past, while advantageous ties with Romania have been neglected or even sabotaged. Romania-phobia has been resorted to, and the formula of a "Moldovan people" has been revived. Grand scale corruption, nepotism, crime have been reasons of worry. Dniester separatists continue to be active, breaching human rights.

The adherence to CIS is no solution to overcome the current economic crisis, writes the declaration. It mentions that it is important to boost the cooperation, the contacts on many planes with Romania. Romania-phobia is condemned and the participants in the said congress have disfavoured a referendum, "that will destabilize the social-political situation and will not solve the issue of the Dniester region, as long as the 14th Army stay in the Republic of Moldova."

The declaration condemns the attacks on the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia. It asks people to oppose actions aimed at turning Romanians against one another.

Calls for Union With Romania

AU1001192693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1607 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 10/1/1993—"We have assembled to firmly oppose the attempts to have the country submitted, through a referendum, to a new empire, to preserve the old power structures," said Academician Mihai Cimpoi, president of the Writers' Union, at the first congress of the Moldovan Intelligentsia, opened in Chisinau's National Palace, and attended by more than 2,000 delegates.

Nicolae Dabija, editor-in-chief of the weekly "LITERATURA SI ARTA," [LITERATURE AND ART], member of the Initiative Committee, mentioned that years on end the bolsheviks inoculated the idea that intellectuals are not necessary in a society, that they can even be despised. "Our opponents of yesterday have still used words such as "our people," "our revolution," "our movement of freedom," which they have stolen from

us." Mr. Dabija opined that Bessarabia's "Dniesterisation" had already started after a scenario made in Moscow. The speaker considered that the presence in that hall of parliamentarians, scientists, writers, representatives of the Bessarabian Orthodox Church, headed by Petru, deputy metropolitan of Bessarabia, delegates and invitees from almost all social walks of life was a sign that the intellectual's activity may revive and come to represent a real force in the fight for national awakening, for the people's cause. "Our independence is in jeopardy, which certain people can only see within CIS. All the same, democratic forces of the republic have to get united. It is only in this way that we can represent a force, an intellectual solidarity is needed, the masses have to grow aware of the dangers around the corner, of the subtext of a possible referendum—never together with the Romanians, always together with the Russians, the CIS, a superstate above other states. We shall tell the people that the legitimity of the Republic of Moldova is threatened, that the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact is intended to be turned legal. (...) It is not Romania that has threatened our independence, but Russia. Russian is in fact the state language. The latest developments have proved that we have lost the Dniester region, Tighina, we may lose Romania now. (...) The union (with Romania) will be achieved, it was achieved in 1918 after all. At stake is another union now, the restoration of our place within the boundaries of our forefathers. We do not ask for an immediate union, we do not want to force it, but neither do we want it to be blocked."

Dniester Supreme Soviet Seeks Creation of Confederation

OW1001204393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1832 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As the agency "OLVIYA-PRESS" reported from Tiraspol, the Supreme Soviet of transdniesteria stands for the creation of the Moldovan confederation. The statement of the transdniesterian parliament distributed on Sunday notes that its deputies believe that it is possible to create a confederative Union of "two equal independent state - the transdniesterian Moldovan Republic (TMR) and the Republic of Moldova entitling it "Moldovan Confederation".

The Supreme Soviet of the transdniesterian Moldovan Republic proposed to the Moldovan parliament to discuss this decision and to adopt an appropriate resolution on the creation of the confederation. According to the transdniesterian parliamentarians, the status of the new state formation should be determined by a Treaty "on the division of the authorities between the subjects of the confederation" the draft of which had been approved by the Supreme Soviet of the TMR. The resolution points out that the treaty should become "the basic document for political negotiations with the Moldovan Republic."

Dniester, Gagauzia Send Humanitarian Aid to Abkhazia

OW0801123093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Dniester and Gagauzia (the selfproclaimed republics in Moldova) will send to Abkhazia a more than 5 million rubles-worth humanitarian aid, including medicines, food and nutrients for children, and a field hospital for 500 beds.

The President of the International Congress of Abkhazia Taras Shamba disclosed in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] on Friday [8 January] that an agreement to this effect had been reached during his visits to Tiraspol and Komrat last month.

He also reported that Abkhazia, Dniester, and Gagauzia plan to promote cooperation in all fields, the military one included.

Kazakhstan

President To Be Questioned by Constitutional Court

OW0901133093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court has suspended the hearing of the case of the Alma-Ata events of 1986, having decided that Soviet ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev cannot be questioned, being a foreign citizen, and that action may only be taken against the former Chairman of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet, Talgat Mukashev, and today's Kazakh President, Nursultan Nazarbayev.

One of the reasons for the December disturbances of 1986, when, according to official reports, four people were killed, hundreds injured, and 99 imprisoned, was the Moscow Politburo's decision to replace Dinmukhamed Kunayev with Gennadiy Kolbin, a Russian, as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Kazakh Communist Party.

The hearing was suspended since more people had to be interviewed and more studies made. The court has asked archives in Moscow for a verbatim report of the Politburo's meeting of December 24, 1986, and has requested that the Kazakh government declassify part of the archives of the republic's KGB.

The suit concerning the 1986 events was brought by two democratic public organizations, Azat (Freedom) and Zheltoksan (December).

Supreme Kenges Session To Resume 13 Jan

LD1001184793 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The ninth session of the Supreme Kenges of the Republic of Kazakhstan will continue its work at 1000 on 13 January. Meetings of parliamentary committees will take place on 11 and 12 January.

Tereshchenko Discusses Investment With OEC Representative

OW0801180193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1705 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko held negotiations on Thursday in Alma-Ata with the general secretary of the Organization for Economic Cooperation [OEC], Shamshad Akhmad. They discussed the issue of granting Kazakhstan OEC investments to develop an infrastructure for private business, organizing insurance companies with foreign capital and creating a satellite communications system.

The OEC was created by Turkey, Iran and Pakistan in 1985. In the autumn of 1992, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were made members.

National Security Committee Foils Illegal Export Attempts

OW1001114493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 26 false advice notes for a total sum of approximately 8 billion rubles have been found in 32 banks in Kazakhstan. 4 billion 400 million of these rubles had "vanished for good" outside the republic's borders after finding their way to the Chechen capital Grozny, according to an announcement made by Bulat Bayekenov, the chairman of Kazakhstan's national security committee, who was speaking on national television on Saturday [9 January].

Bayekenov also said that an attempt to illegally export 62 rail car loads of high-grade steel to China had also been foiled in the town of Taldy-Kurgan at the end of December. In addition, the security authorities had seized over 1,000 tons of copper and 140 tons of strategic metals on their way out of the republic worth a total of 100 million rubles.

Bayekenov said that working groups had been formed at the national security committee which were currently checking the legality and foundation for the issue of export licences by state organisations for raw and other materials from the republic. Checks are being carried out on the activity of some state department and commercial bodies and instances of the illegal engagement by highly placed officials in commerce and private business ventures are also being studies.

The committee has already made a representation to certain highly placed officials of the ministry for geology. The activity of these officials has caused losses to the republic and contributed to the illegal export of rare metals from the republic.

Kyrgyzstan

Tajik Opposition Forces Cross Border, Kill Three

LD1101122293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By KYRGYZKABAR correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek January 11 TASS—Tajik armed opposition units appeared in a bordering region of Kyrgyzstan and killed three local people who rendered resistance to them", according to the Kyrgyz radio and the "EVENING BISHKEK" newspaper. [quotation marks as received]

The militants called on the population of the Jergetal region of Kyrgyzstan to join them in support of Islam and hoisted the green flag of Islamists on the building of the regional administration. Three locals were killed and 18 taken hostage for opposing the Tajik militants, according to the newspaper.

Several days ago the militants tried to break to the regional centre of Osh in Kyrgyzstan and disrupt humanitarian aid supplies to the city. Interior forces in Osh went on high alert. Reservists were called up to form new units.

Akayev Says Republic on Edge of Energy Crisis 'Abyss'

LD1101110693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The number of victims of the energy crisis within the boundaries of the former Union is growing. Kyrgyzstan, too, is on the edge of the abyss. Such an assessment of the situation was made by Askar Akayev, president of the republic, at a conference of power industry workers in Bishkek. Correspondent Vladimir Fedorov reports:

There are two lifebelts—Kyrgyzstan's coal and hydroelectric resources—but it is simply a question of obtaining the money necessary for financing these industries, for this involves hundreds of billions of rubles. The builders of the Naryn hydroelectric power station [GES] cascade see a way out of the crisis in forming a joint stock company of contracting organizations, and attracting partners from neighboring countries and beyond, especially from Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, who have an exceptional interest in Kyrgyzstan's electric power.

In line with the prices for organic fuels it is necessary to raise the rate per kilowatt hour. There should also be a radical change in the charges for the water from Kyrgyzstan's reservoirs, which irrigate over a million hectares in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The norms of international law should operate here. Askar Akayev emphasized that it is necessary to find a way out of the crisis by one's own efforts, and in this context nothing reassuring could be heard in connection with the formation of a Central Asian commonwealth.

Further Akayev Comment

OW1001210893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev believes that the current grave energy crisis may ruin Kyrgyzstan's basic industrial branches. He is convinced that conditions must be created for the comprehensive development of hydropower engineering. He also said that Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan expressed their readiness to invest in Kyrgyzstan's hydro-power branch, so they might become Kyrgyzstan's most reliable partners.

Addressing the leaders of the hydro-power engineering complex, he criticized the leaderrship of the state hydropower company which "continues to work the old way, unaware of its responsibility for the current enenrgy crisis". In the absence of a single system of control over the power-engineering complex, it is impossible to pursue a well-coordinated policy, particularly in the pricing sphere, he said.

He also noted that energy consumption should be restructured and that the utilization of the traditional oil products and gas should be reduced. By the year 2000 the production of electric energy by hydro-power plants should be increased to 20 billion kilowatt/hours and by the year 2005 - to 25 billion kilowatt/hours. Concurrently, foreign investments should be drawn from foreign countries and from former Union republics.

He said that during the recent talks in Tashkent the heads of the five Central Asian states agreed to set up the Central Asian commission for inter-state control over the hydro-power complex, to be headquartered in Bishkek.

President Receives Credentials of New Israeli Ambassador

OW1001162293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan is interested in raising its relations with Israel to a qualitatively new level, said President Askar Akayev on Sunday [10 January], when Israel's Ambassador to Bishkek, B. Carmel, presented his credentials to him. According to Akayev, the official visit of a Kyrgyz governmental delegation led by the president to Tel Aviv (planned for January 19-21) is designed to contribute to the development of direct political, economic, cultural and scientific ties between the two countries.

Thousands of Jews found shelter in Kyrgyzstan during World War II Akayev said. "Many Jewish scientists and cultural workers made a great contribution to the endeavors to build the scientific and cultural potential of Kyrgyzstan," he said.

Favors Broader Relations

OW1001113893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [10 January], the Kyrgyz president told Israel's ambassador to Bishkek that Kyrgyz-Israeli relations should be raised to a qualitatively new level. He said that the two countries should broaden political, economic, cultural and scientific contacts, and expressed hope that the forthcoming official visit to Israel of a Kyrgyz state delegation, to last from January 19 to 21, will help attain this goal.

President Akayev attaches great importance to Kyrgyz-Israeli cooperation in light industry and agriculture, and to broader cultural and scientific exchanges between the two states. He noted that during World War II thousands of Jews found refuge in Kyrgyzstan. Jewish scientists and cultural figures made a great contribution to the development of Kyrgyzstan's scientific and artistic intelligentsia, he said.

Drugs, Weapons Enter Territory With Tajik Refugees

PM1101122193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Razgulyayev: "A Fire Is a Fire Everywhere...."]

[Text] The situation has been aggravated again in long-suffering Osh Oblast. The bloody conflict in neighboring Tajikistan has caused a flood of refugees. Thousands of people left homeless are crossing over almost every day into Chon-Alayskiy, Batkenskiy, and Lyaylyakskiy Rayons. And many criminals are coming with them. Weapons and narcotics have appeared.

One more channel of tension is the Khorog-Osh highway. When the war broke out in Tajikistan's southern regions, drugs dealers chose a different, safer route to sell their poisonous wares—via Kyrgyzstan. The volumes of resale of opium and marijuana have increased several times over in Osh.

All this has forced the local authorities to take extraordinary steps. A special entry and exit regime has been introduced in the border regions. The checkpoints now carry out a careful inspection of vehicles and individuals. It should be noted that the first passports checks in Osh revealed dozens of people without documents and without business assignments.

"The danger that the drugs business will spread from Pamir is extraordinarily great," Militia Major General B. Kurmatov, commandant of Osh Oblast, believes. "A flood of drugs, weapons, and criminal elements has already surged into our republic. We cannot watch calmly as all this ignites our already explosive region. And we shall not!"

Of course, a barrier against the crime threat is needed. But it is even more important that peace should finally prevail in neighboring, half-destroyed Tajikistan so that the sparks from its burning house do not fly into Kyrgyzia's peaceful villages and hamlets. And this fire must be put out together.

Tajikistan

Government Begins Major Offensive on Armed Groups

LD1101084093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0829 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe January 11 TASS—Tajik governmental troops initiated a major offensive on the armed groups of the opposition in the towns of Rogun and Obigarm near the Pamir mountains on Monday [11 January].

The aim of the operation is to disarm the major groupings of the opposition deployed there and to stop short their arbitrariness in the towns, TASS was told by chairman of the Tajik National Security Committee Saydamir Zukhurov.

After opposition forces blocked the highway leading from Dushanbe to Khorog many regions and settlements of the Pamir area found themselves on the brink of hunger, he said, adding that oppositional forces were reported to rampage houses, loot and terrorise those opposing their actions.

Russian-speaking population in Rogun is also being terrorised and the opposition wants to use them as hostages of political ambitions, Zukhurov said.

The government had to resort to force as the deadline for voluntary surrender of weapons expired on January 4 and talks with the opposition gave no results. Further delay with disarmament of the oppositional forces which possess dozens of thousands of firearms, including anti-tank weapons, can lead to a new spark in the fratricidal conflict, head of the security committee said.

Situation Remains Calm After Recent Hostilities

LD1001121493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 10 TASS—The situation in Tajikistan, chiefly in the areas of recent hostilities, remains relatively calm, ITAR-TASS was told today [10 January] at the Tajik interior minister's press service. The state of emergency, declared on January 8 in the Tajik capital and several outlying districts, was an important stabilising factor in this respect.

Confiscation of weapons and ammunition from the population is being continued by security and interior units of the republic, jointly with troops from the 201st Russian Motorised Infantry Division. Round-the-clock posts have been set up on the approaches to Dushanbe and on all the main motorroads, as well as in the populated localities covered by the state of emergency order. All the most important economic facilities are being guarded.

Officials of the interior minister's press service noted that the population of Dushanbe, Kofarnikhon, Leninskiy and other districts are surrendering their weapons more willingly now due to the explanatory work, conducted by law enforcement bodies and the local authorities. According to the press service, several thousand units of firearms and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition, as well as some armoured vehicles, were already surrendered to the authorities.

A trainload of food and commodities for Leninabad region arrived in Dushanbe on Saturday evening.

Supreme Soviet Resolution on Weapons Confiscations

LD0801175593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 8 Jan 93

["Resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan on application of Article 3 of the Decree by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan dated 18 December 1992 On the Voluntary Surrender and Confiscation of Firearms and Military Equipment"]

[Text] In connection with proposals that have been received explaining the application of individual points contained in the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan dated 18 December 1992 on the voluntary surrender and confiscation of firearms and military equipment, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

1. It is to be explained that those citizens and armed groups who refuse to voluntarily surrender firearms and military equipment will be liable for criminal prosecution in accordance with Article 234 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan.

2. In order to search and find firearms and military equipment and to ensure their confiscation when sufficient information is available, organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, who have been assigned the task of implementing the above-mentioned decree, can:

a. Establish 24-hour checkpoints on the main junctions of Dushanbe city and, if need be, in other residential areas and on roads where vehicles and people will be searched.

b. Form groups within town and rayon internal affairs organs with the participation of people's deputies, representatives of the public, street, and residential committees to hold special raids in the streets and rayons.

c. In case of precise information on the existence of firearms and military equipment in citizens' homes, apartments, service buildings, and other buildings, to carry out searches with the permission of local prosecution office.

3. The strict supervision of the legality of the measures taken on search and confiscation of firearms and military equipment will be carried out by the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Tajikistan, who is to provide representatives from the staff of the Prosecution Office to form part of the groups mentioned in part b of Article Two of this resolution.

[Signed] Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Rakhmanov Backs State of Emergency; Situation Stabilizing

LD0901113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 9 Jan—A group of UN experts on political and military matters will arrive during the next few days in Dushanbe, where a state of emergency was introduced on the night of 7-8 January. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this today at the republic's Foreign Ministry. It is thought that the group will be the nucleus of a possible expansion of the world community's participation in efforts to establish peace in Tajikistan.

The introduction of the state of emergency was described by the republic's Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov as "a temporary but crucial measure" along the road towards radically improving the situation in Tajikistan. In his view, the measure was necessary in order to "crown the efforts of the Republic's present leadership and its law enforcement agencies to stabilize the situation throughout the Republic, including border areas." In a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he called 8 January "a day of hope for the Tajik people."

According to reports from the head of state's press service, active patrolling of the more explosive districts of Dushanbe was carried out yesterday [8 January]. Ministry of Internal Affairs bodies have used subdivisions of the Russian 201st motorized rifle division in these operations.

At 2100 [1800 GMT] the same subdivisions set up curfew posts to carry out strict checks on all vehicles entering or leaving the city. The main aim of the state of emergency introduced in the capital and its environs is

to reach a cardinal breakthrough in its operations to confiscate weapons. Judging from the reports by the press service of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs, an increase in the number of weapons being voluntarily surrendered by members of illegal formations has been registered. Preparations are completed for big trade fairs which are to open here tomorrow. Dozens of trucks loaded with agricultural produce have arrived from Leninabad oblast. The entire convoy will consist of 413 trucks. Tomorrow all the squares of Dushanbe will be transformed into colorful fairgrounds. Organization of such fairs in Dushanbe is one of the good signs pointing to stabilization of the social and political situation in Tajikistan.

Government Calculates War Casualties, Damage

LD0901203893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] A group of UN experts will arrive in Dushanbe in the coming days. It is expected that they will form the nucleus for the world community's possible participation in establishing accord in the Republic.

The presidential palace in Dushanbe is under particularly heavy guard today. While civil war is going on in the Republic, these precautionary measures do not hurt. A republican conference was held here, taking part in which were the leaders of the Republic, representatives of all oblasts, towns and districts in Tajikistan, and also officials of the law enforcement organs, Russian servicemen, border guards, and representatives of ethnic communities. The meeting was presented with an analysis of the sociopolitical and economic situation by Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet. He described the situation as complex.

As a result of the undeclared civil war 20,000 people have died, thousands have gone missing, 150,000 houses have been destroyed, 15,000 houses have been plundered, and 60,000 citizens of Tajikistan have fled to neighboring Afghanistan. No money can measure the moral damage inflicted on the Tajik people. The speaker of parliament sharply criticized the local authorities for abdicating their direct obligations, and the organs of law and order for indecisiveness of action. He also asked journalists covering events in Tajikistan to call white white, and black black. The conference laid out a specific program for escaping from the current crisis.

Official Says War Damage at Least 200 Billion Rubles

LD1101094393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 11 TASS—Even according to the most modest estimates, the internal armed conflict in Tajikistan caused the 200 billion rouble economic damage to the republic, Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov said addressing a republican conference in Dushanbe.

The grave economic situation forced Tajikistan to take emergency measures to save the harvest of cotton which remained unpicked on the fields due to the months-long civic war. In keeping with the government's decision, all harvesters are paid twenty roubles each for a kilogram of the fine fibre raw cotton on the spot and fifteen roubles - for a kilo of medium-staple cotton.

Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform Habibullo Tabarov said some 200,000 tonnes of cotton the 1992 harvest remained unharvested in 1992 in the Khatlonskaya region of Tajikistan by today.

Three Charged for Participation in May 92 Coup

LD0901110593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1002 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 9 TASS—Mahmadnazar Salikhov, procurator-general of Tajikistan, has instituted judicial proceedings against Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, spiritual head of the Tajik Muslims, Shodmon Yusuf, leader of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan, and former Deputy Premier Dovlat Usmon, deputy chairman of the Islamic Revival Party.

These leaders of religious and socio-political organisations, are accused of entering into a criminal collusion in May last year for the purpose of seizing power and overthrowing the lawfully elected leadership of the republic, a spokesman at the press centre of the procurator's office told ITAR-TASS.

They are also charged with creating unlawful armed groups and masterminding combat actions that led to the fratricidal war and entailed thousands-strong casualities and multibillion damage to the national economy of Tajikistan.

An investigation team, consisting of specialists from the procurator's office, the Ministry of the Interior and the national security committee of the republic, has been set up to handle the case.

According to the procurator's office, the whereabouts of the person under investigation have not been established. It is not ruled out that some of them are on the territory of Russia.

Rakhmanov Meets With Russian Border Guards

LD1101093593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Yesterday Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, received representatives from the servicemen of the Russian Border Guard units in Tajikistan and the workers of the

Committee for National Security. Imamali Rakhmanov spoke to the border guards on the current situation in the Republic. He said that the leaders of the republic are taking all possible measures to assist and cooperate with the Border Guards. The representatives from the border guard units spoke on the situation on the borders and their conditions. Ubaidulloyev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, participated in this meeting.

Uzbekistan

Prosecutor Calls Tajik State of Emergency 'Lawful'

LD0901121593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Baranov]

[Text] January 9 TASS—Buritosh Mustafayev, procurator-general of Uzbekistan, referred to the imposition of a state of emergency in neighbouring Tajikistan as a lawful and essential measure.

By a presidential decree, he has just been appointed to this new post instituted in accordance with the recently adopted first-ever Constitution of independent Uzbekistan.

In an ITAR-TASS interview, Mustafayev said that, although Uzbekistan has a good deal of its own concerns and problems, the situation in fraternal Tajikistan cannot but arouse sympathy of all peoples of the region who have been connected by close ties since olden times. Only the people themselves of the sovereign country have the right to choose a way to follow, he emphasised.

The republics of Central Asia, as was decided upon at the recent meeting of the heads of these states in Tashkent, are prepared to render and are already rendering the necessary humanitarian and economic aid to the fraternal republic.

The main thing now is to ensure stability in Tajikistan itself, confiscate weapons amassed there unlawfully, and reliably bar the way to those evil forces that do not like an end to the civil war, peace and tranquility of people living there, Mustafayev said.

German Secretary Meets Karimov on Economic Cooperation

LD0801215993 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] (Wighard Herdtl), state secretary in the Ministry of Economic Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany, in a conversation with Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, stressed that Uzbekistan is distinguished by a stable atmosphere in an unquiet region and that reliable legal guarantees have been created there for foreign capital. (Herdtl) arrived in Tashkent in order to hand over humanitarian aid to the peoples of the Aral region—a zone of ecological disaster.

At a press conference arranged for this occasion, President Karimov declared that, viewing long-term prospects, Germany was an advantageous partner for his country. The famous German BASF concern has already opened its mission in Tashkent, while Mercedes-Benz is working on the issue of building a car factory in Uzbekistan.

Presidential Decree Denationalizes 700 State Farms

OW1001211193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1841 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Karimov has signed the decree on the denationalization of 700 unprofitable state farms. By agreement with the state farmers, the state farms operating at a loss will be reorganized into private firms, joint-stock societies and cooperatives. The buildings, facilities and equipmnent will be placed at the new owners' disposal for free, while the repayment of the farmers'debt to the state will be extended to 20 years.

The Uzbek government hopes that this measure will help support unprofitable farms. The new farming entities will be financed by the newly-established commercial bank with the state's share in its starting capital ammounting to 1.5 billion roubles.

Also, there are plans to attract foreign capital and reduce the state order for agricultural produce. (The state order on cotton will be reduced from 85 to 80 per cent). The farmers will be given the right to sell the remaining part of the crop at free prices which will bring them an additional income of 20 billion roubles.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: A survey conducted by Uzbekistan's social analysis centre has shown that members of all groups of the republic's rural population would like to take up private farming. For example, 46% of agricultural specialists questioned said that they would like to become farmers, as did 57% of ordinary state and collective farm workers, 59% of students, 31% of housewives, 45% of managers of holdings and sub-divisions, and 42% of employees engaged in the cultural and enlightenment industries. Every fifth holding manager and specialist considered that state and collective farms had exhausted themselves and no longer had a future. The development of farming in Uzbekistan was, in the opinion of the respondents, being held back by the lack of funds possessed by peasants for the individual running of holdings and the opposition of certain heads of local authority. The Uzbek agriculture ministry has said that 12,537 farm holdings had been established in the republic to date occupying 96,000 hectares of land. Farmers should be allocated 200,000 hectares of the republic's total 4.3 mn. hectares of arable land.

Armenia

Official Welcomes Upcoming Richard Armitage Visit

OW0801171893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The U.S. and G7 leaders are keeping a close watch on the delivery of relief aid to Armenia. The chief of the Armenian President's press service Aram Abramian has said that the visit of the U.S. State Department official Richard Armitage will facilitate the delivery of relief aid to Armenia through Georgia.

The presidential spokesman said that up to now Georgia has been taking its own quota of natural gas and part of the Armenian quota going through its territory, too. The Armenian official said that was one of the reasons why Armenia has been unable to restore gas supply to normal to this day.

Karabakh Spokesman Welcomes Bush-Yeltsin Statement

NC0801174493 Yerevan SNARK in English 1244 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Stepanakert, January 8 (SNARK)—Marsel Petrosyan, the head of the Karabakh Press and Information Department, in his interview to SNARK's reporter has noted: "I welcome the joint statement of the USA and Russian Presidents, expressing anxiety in connection with events in Nagorno-Karabakh." Marsel Petrosyan has also expressed hope that concrete actions will follow at last the words of the presidents of two great countries, which are ready by joint efforts to find an acceptable solution for all the participants of the conflict. According to Marsel Petrosyan, Nagorno-Karabakh is ready even today to lead negotiations on the peaceful solution of the problem.

Defense Ministry Denies Air Force Helicopter Downed

NC0801175793 Yerevan SNARK in English 1400 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 8 (SNARK)—The January 8 TASS information regarding the fact an Armenian Air Force helicopter has been knocked down is not in correspondence with the reality. "Armenian Air Forces haven't participated in the military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh," Armen Dulyan, head of the Armenian Defense Ministry press-centre, said to SNARK's reporter. Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh defense committee, added "the Karabakh self-defence forces do not affirm this fact." SNARK notes this is an additional attempt of the mass media, which are briefed from Baku, to depict the situation as if the Armenian military forces take part in the conflict.

Speaker Confirms Talks on Karabakh, Explains Secrecy

NC0801181493 Yerevan SNARK in English 1439 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 8 (SNARK)—During a conversation with SNARK's reporter Babken Ararktsyan, speaker of the parliament, hasn't denied the fact of the present talks among Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey and US, which are under way in Moscow now. SNARK informed earlier about the above fact. Simultaneously Ararktsyan has declared the talks are rather of a consultative character and affirmed that the Armenian positions are within the Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviets obligations, according to these agreements Armenia wouldn't sign any document which is to recognize Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan. The speaker explained that the confidential type of the talks was due to accelerate the negotiations process avoiding sharp corners of official ceremonies, as determining the status of the sides, which were disturbing the normal course of the Rome talks on the problem.

Says New Constitution Main Goal

OW0801180393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The speaker of the Armenian Parliament Babken Ararkstyan believes that the parliament's main task this year will be to formulate and adopt a new constitution.

Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan he said that the Constitutional commission was already working on a draft of the fundamental law.

Ararkstyan said he shared President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's idea it would be necessary to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections after the adoption of the Constitution. They may take place in the autumn of this year, if the new constitution becomes a reality in the spring or summer.

Ararkstyan says that Armenia needs a professional parliament, whose members would dedicate themselves entirely to law-making activities.

About the situation in Russia Ararkstyan said that the appointment of Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister would slow down economic reforms.

Ararkstyan welcomed the emergence of the interparliamentary assembly. However, he said that if the assembly is going to be an effective body, it must in the first place discuss urgent problems, including Nagorno-Karabakh, Trans-Dniester and Tajikistan.

The speaker of the Armenian parliament called for strengthening and developing integration within the C.I.S. but dismissed the possibility of any federation or confederation.

Arakstyan spoke highly of the joint statement by the Russian and U.S. presidents on Nagorno-Karabakh. He said it was evidence that efforts by the Armenian leaders to settle the Karabakh problem had produced a favorable result and the joint statement by the presidents of the world's leading powers was the most serious achievement of Armenian diplomacy.

Ter-Petrosyan To Meet Russian President 10 Jan

NC0801171593 Yerevan SNARK in English 1459 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 7 (SNARK)—Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the Armenian president, is meeting with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin on January 10. There will be discussed the economic cooperation and transport-energetic blockade of Armenia and the political problems of mutual interest. There will be undertaken the consultations on further meeting of the CIS leaders in Minsk by the end of January.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English, received via the KYODO news agency at 1706 GMT on 8 January transmits a report on Ter-Petrosyan's plans to meet with Yeltsin which then goes on to note that: "The Armenian President's spokesman, Aram Abramian also said that on Thursday evening Ter-Petrosyan talked with the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on the phone and agreed to have a meeting with him, too."]

Economic Problems Aired; President Meets Yeltsin

LD1001171793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1418 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report from Yerevan by correspondent Koryn Khumaryan]

[Text] The socio-economic situation in Armenia remains extremely difficult. Because of the reduced amount of natural gas reaching the republic, thermal power stations are generating far below capacity. As a result electricity is being supplied to apartment blocks and offices for only eight to 10 hours in each 24-hour period, including four to five hours at night. You can imagine, I think, how difficult this crisis is for Armenian housewives. They have only four hours in which to heat the apartment as best they can, to prepare some kind of meal, to wash clothes, to bathe their children, and to do many other things which might be easy to accomplish under normal circumstances, but which require heroic efforts in our conditions.

At yesterday's briefing the head of the government's press service gave journalists the good news that Turkmenia has increased the amount of gas being supplied to the Transcaucasus republics. He hoped that by evening gas stoves in our homes would finally light up. He added, however, that this would depend on Georgia and Azerbaijan making do with their own quotas and not siphoning off our gas.

Well, our domestic gas stoves did not light yesterday evening or even today. This means either that Turkmenia did not keep its promise or that Georgia and Azerbaijan could not resist the temptation to take something which rightfully belongs to somebody else. I know what this sort of thing is called when it happens in everyday life. But I have to admit that I do not know what to call it when it happens in relations between states, especially when those states have signed treaties at the highest level. In fact, it is not just gas which is involved but also many other materials and products which are shipped to Armenia. All sorts of things, ranging from building materials, cars, and machinery to food and travelers' personal effects are plundered while in transit.

The danger of epidemics in Armenia is greatly increasing because of the energy shortage and the almost total lack of fuel, lubricants, and spare parts for transport. Aleksandr Israelyan, acting chief medical officer of health at the Armenian Health Ministry, voiced his fears about this in an article published in the RESPUBLIKA ARMENII newspaper today.

As in previous days and months, the attention of republican press centers was today focused on Karabakh and the problems surrounding it. The SNARK agency has put out a somewhat sensational report to the effect that private talks on the Karabakh problem are being held in Moscow between representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, the United States, and Turkey. This is already the second meeting of this kind this month. It should be noted that the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] is not represented at these talks. In this connection Suren Zolyan, secretary of the Armenian Supreme Soviet's Commission on Nagorno-Karabakh, reminds readers of RESPUBLIKA ARMENII that until at least last September Armenia's official line was that the Karabakh problem could not be resolved without the participation of an NKR representative in the negotiating process. Well, the only thing to be added in this respect is the observation that any talks on Nagorno-Karabakh at which Karabakh itself is not represented will be like holding a wedding without the groom.

Finally, people in Armenia are impatiently awaiting the return home of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who, according to our information, had talks today with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. We hope that these talks were successful.

Karabakh Tense; Shelling of Settlements Continues

NC0801214193 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic remains tense. KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY reports that the tension is not subsiding, particularly in Martuninskiy Rayon. The village of Karmirshuka was shelled from the Azerbaijani military bases in Fizulinskiy Rayon

on the night of 7 January. There are no reports on casualties. Positional battles are continuing around the village of Gevorgavan.

After having failed in its aggressive attacks on Armenia's southern borders, the Azerbaijani Army has for the last few days shifted its attacks to the northeastern regions of Armenia. Although they changed the direction of their attack, the Azerbaijanis are still using the same methods—shelling peaceful settlements. The aim of this is to inflict as much damage as possible, create panic among the population, and incite the Armenian side to retaliate so that it can be used for propaganda purposes.

After having shelled Idzhevanskiy and Tavushskiy Rayons, the Azerbaijanis directed their fire on Krasnoselskiy Rayon. According to the Armenian Defense Ministry press service, Krasnoselk and Chambarak in the rayon were shelled for a few hours with Grad launchers and heavy arms from Azerbaijan's Kedabekskiy Rayon on the night of 7 January. The shelling stopped only after the Armenian side retaliated. There were no casualties.

According to Tavushskiy Rayon Soviet Executive Committee, our defensive positions in Tavushskiy Rayon were shelled from Azerbaijan's Tauzskiy Rayon on the night of 7 January. Return fire was opened and the enemy's firing positions were silenced. According to preliminary reports, there were no casualties on our side.

Rockets Fired on Villages

NC0901121193 Yerevan SNARK in English 0952 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan-Stepanakert, January 9 (SNARK)—Today morning the Azerbaijani side has bombarded the Armenian villages of Edillu in Gadruth Rayon and Karmir-Shuka in Martuninskiy Rayon at the south of Karabakh, using "Grad" launcher. SNARK's reporter informs from Stepanakert. It is uneasy as well at the north-east of Armenia. The Armenian military department informed that last night the Movses, Aighepar and Nerkin-Karmirakhpure villages of Taush Rayon, situated at the border, had been also fired by the Azerbaijani units. The Armenian side was forced to resort to retaliatory measures. No changes at the other sections of the border.

France's Dumas Appeals to Armenia's Neighboring States

LD0801185993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Krasnoshchekov]

[Text] Paris January 8 TASS—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas sent today messages to foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Turkey to express French concern over the situation in Armenia and ask them for assistance in supplying prime necessities to Armenia, including measures to ensure transit transportation of energy raw materials sent to the republic through neighbouring states.

On Thursday Dumas met representatives of 35 Armenian organizations in France, who called on the French Government to make demarches to achieve the lifting of four-year-long transport blockade of Armenia, deputy official representative of the French Foreign Ministry Maurice Gourdault-Montagne said here today.

He recalled French President Francois Mitterrand has sent a letter to Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to express French concern over the situation in Armenia and express the readiness to contribute to the search for ways of political settlement of the regional conflict, termination of the economic blockade of the republic and organization of the delivery of humanitarian aid to the local population.

The letter was passed over to Ter-Petrosyan by the French ambassador to Armenia.

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Not Satisfied With International Attitude

OW1001210693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Elchibey speaking on national television has described as most praiseworthy a recent statement by presidents Yeltsin and Bush calling for the suspension of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh and a CSCE peace conference on the disputed territory.

He said Azerbaijan could not be satisfied by the attitudes shown to regional events either by international agencies or great powers. Armenia's open aggression, he said, is aimed at annexing part of Azerbaijani territory and its parliament's decision to do so has so far caused no adequate response from the international community.

Elchibey accused Armenia of occupying Azeri villages in Kazakh and Zangelan regions and continued rocket and shellfire on Azeri border villages as well as the blockade of the Nakhichevan autonomous republic. He said it was impossible to bring an end to the bloodshed unless the aggressor was clearly identified.

The president maintains that the aggressor is using Armenian diaspora to bring pressure on the great powers pointing as an example to what he described as a discriminatory anti-Azeri resolution by US Congress denying aid and support to his country.

Elchibey blamed Armenian leaders for undermining all peace initiatives aimed at settling the conflict saying that the incidents of Armenian incursion of Azerbaijani territory were also dismissed by the world community.

The Azeri leader pledged his country's commitment to a just solution to the conflict in a peaceful way and in line with international law paying respect to the effort undertaken to this end by the US and Russian presidents.

Russian-U.S. Statement on Karabakh Appreciated

OW1001110493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting Chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament Georgy Petrosyan stated that the Karabakh leaders had appreciated the joint statement on the Karabakh problems by the Russian and US presidents. Speaking in Stepanakert on Friday [8 January], Petrosyan expressed hope that the two great powers would use their authority and international status to influence the countries that have departed from the realistic and neutral positior on this issue.

He also said that the position, asumed by some of the states of the Minsk group "hampers the settlement of the Karabakh problem." The attempts to mediate, made by individual countries and international organizations, have failed because Azerbaijan has assumed a destructive position and is trying to use talks for attaining military successes, he went on to say.

Petrosyan confirmed Stepanakert's readiness to consider all constructuve initiatives. He noted, however, that Nagorno-Karabakh must be recognized as a full-fledged participant in the talks. This, he said, would facilitate the attainment of a peaceful solution.

Karabakh Views With Understanding Russian-U.S. Statement

LD0801203193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan January 8 TASS—The leadership of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has taken with understanding the joint statement of the Russian and U.S. Presidents on Nagorno-Karabakh, Acting Karabakh Parliament Chairman Georgy Petrosyan said here tonight.

In his opinion, "it is natural, the world and, especially, major states are concerned over the situation in the region, where the five-year-long conflict has overgrown into a direct aggression of the Azeri Republic against Nagorno-Karabakh over the past year."

A statement circulated by the Karabakh permanent representation in Yerevan, notes ignoring of interests of any people of the region is fraught with uncontrolled escalation of combat operations and, related to this, gross violations of human rights and numerous troubles for civilians.

Unfortunately, stand of some countries of the CSCE Minsk groups is hampering progress in the achievement of a just settlement of the problem. The Karabakh leadership believes attempts of mediators, both specific states and international organizations, are also a failure because "Azerbaijan is holding an evidently destructive stand and tries to use all attempts to use negotiations for the achievement of military success."

The Karabakh Parliament head expressed the hope "great powers will use their authority to influence states deviating from well-considered and neutral stands."

He confirmed "the readiness to meet halfway all sincere and constructive initiatives for the soonest solution of the problem." At the same time, the official said they want to note once again the recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic a fully-fledged side to the negotiations would contribute to the soonest progress of peace processes, says the document.

U.S.-Russian Statement Said To Reveal 'Double Standard'

NC0801180993 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 8 Jan (TURAN)—The political observers in Baku discover the elements of the policy of double standard in the announcement of the presidents of the USA and Russia by the Karabakh problem.

One of the political commentators of the Azeri television expressed his opinion that the responsibility of Armenia, as aggressor and the victim—Azerbaijan, are balanced not illegally in the announcement. [sentence as received]

Political observers consider that such kind of a policy may bring serious troubles for the world association and may prevent the process of democratization of principles in the interstate relations.

In connection with this fact Azerbaijan expresses fear that the republic can become the victim of the double standard of alliance of the West and Russia. The appeals to display the prudence and attention in the external policy are sounded more often.

Elchibey Hails Plan for Central Asian Community

LD0901145793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey welcomed the Tashkent summit decision to form a community of Central Asian states, the TURAN agency reports. In Elchibey's view, however, proclaiming the community is only expressing a wish. It is a very difficult process to create a mechanism for joint activity. The Azerbaijan

president regards the absence of the attributes of independent states among the members of the community as the main obstacle to the establishment of a new union.

Foreign Minister Demands Security Guarantees

OW1001144493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview with INTERFAX Tofik Gasymov, the Azeri Foreign Minister, declared that Azerbaijan needs security guarantees in order to occupy a place at the negotiations' table with Armenia, in particular, the guarantee envisaging the observance of possible agreements.

According to the minister, the United States, Russia, and Turkey might be the international guarantors of security for Azerbaijan and for the concluded agreements. In case they agree, Gasymov said, at a five-party summit (Azerbaijan, Armenia, the United States, Russia, and Turkey) these three guarantors could be granted appropriate authorities, in particular, envisaging introduction of economic sanctions against the parties which violate the reached agreements.

Gasymov believes that it is necessary to reveal and identify the aggressor in the Karabakh conflict on the basis of the international norms. The absence of this identification, the minister said, is the main reason for the conflict's prolongation.

Gasymov made Armenia responsible for the disruption of the peaceful initiatives put forward by Azerbaijan and the agreements reached earlier concerning the normalization of the Karabakh conflict. He also noted that Armenia stirs up the aggressive actions every time new possibilities for the conflict's settlement appear.

Foreign Ministry Blames Armenia for Attacks on Russians

LD1001124593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In response to a statement of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which expresses concern over the future of the Russian population in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has published a statement in which it puts the blame for firing at the Russian villages on the Armenian side.

Nagorno-Karabakh Denies Downing of Armenian Helicopter

OW0901133593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Azeri Defense Ministry, the Azeri army on Friday [8 Jan] evening shot down an Armenian military helicopter in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh. The helicopter caught fire and crashed in the Kilbajary Mountains, the crew dying, the ministry said.

The Defense Ministry of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic denied the report, describing it as "false."

Azeri sources also say that, on Friday night and Saturday morning, the Armenian army was firing on border villages in Azerbaijan's Akstafa, Tauz, and Lachin Districts, while an Armenian expeditionary corps positioned in Nagorno-Karabakh subjected to intensive fire Azerbaijan' Fizuli District. In the course of fighting in that district, the Azeris hit one Armenian tank and destroyed two enemy artillery pieces.

Gevorkavan Village Taken by Self-Defense Units

LD0901135193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The village of Gevorkavan in Martuninskiy Rayon was the military operations hot spot in Nagorno-Karabakh today, the independent news agency LUR reports. In the last days of the past year this village was taken by the Karabakh self-defense units from the Azerbaijani Army.

Gevorkavan fell under the control of the Azerbaijani side during the offensive by the Azerbaijani Army in the summer of last year. According to the Azerbaijani mass media, a number of villages in Fizulinskiy Rayon were subjected to artillery shelling from the Armenian side.

Defense Ministry Updates Clashes in Fizulinskiy

NC0901184593 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

The situation in the Fizulinskiy Rayon battlefront remains tense. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces have obstructed all the attacks against that rayon and counterattacked the enemy units.

Fighting took place in the vicinity of Kyzyl Kaya, [placename indistinct], and Yukhary Veysalli yesterday and today. Our artillery units hit and destroyed two [words indistinct] and many enemy troops in the clashes. Our positions close to Yukhary Yemezli, [placename indistinct], Sayikhly, and Sherikan in Zangelanskiy Rayon were fired on with automatic firearms and machine guns on the night of 8 January. Periodic exchanges of fire took place close to Kokhne Kyshlakh in Akstafa Rayon today.

Accord With Russia Paves Way for Return of Mutalibov

LD0901072293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] It could be possible to have ex-President Ayaz Mutalibov returned to the Republic once the Russian and Azerbaijani parliaments ratify an agreement on legal aid in civil, family, and criminal cases signed in Moscow by the ministers of justice of the two states. This was revealed at a briefing by (Aidin Kirilov), Azerbaijani first deputy minister of justice.

He noted that once Mutalibov is returned to Baku it will be possible to conclude the criminal proceedings instituted against the Republic's former president. (Kirilov) also said that Azerbaijan plans to conclude agreements on legal aid with Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova, the Baltic states, Iran, Israel, and a number of other countries in the near future.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Would Welcome UN, European Observers

OW1001185693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, speaking in an exlusive interview with INTERFAX, said that his country's recent appeal to the United Nations was aimed at nudging international agencies to step up effort to help implement the Abkhazian peace agreement signed in Moscow last September.

Shevardnadze believes there is little chance of UN peacekeepers being moved into the republic. The question is one of sending UN observers to the region, he said, which in itself is also useful. The Georgian leader said his country struck common ground with the United Nations because of widespread awareness of the threat of what he called " extremist separatism" if that was allowed to spread. However, Shevardnadze does not rule out the possibility of Russia's peacemaking role but within the Moscow peace agreement.

He hopes that as the United Nations, European security institutions will also join the regional peace process. Work is in progress to this end, he said, and Georgia has already been given some guarantees. Shevardnadze spoke of the first team of European observers already being in Georgia.

The Georgian appeal to international organisations, he said, is largely aimed at telling the truth both about and behind the conflict in Abkhazia because of the considerable misinformation that exists. Such contacts, said Shevardnadze, help us to break a hole in the information blockade.

On Russian-Georgian relations, Shevardnadze said these were not going through the best times hoping that the cooling of relations between Moscow and Tbilisi would soon be overcome. He said work was now in a final stage to draft up agreements on bilateral relations and that the two sides were due to meet in a new round of talks on January 20.

Shevardnadze says his meeting with president Yeltsin is pending the finalisation of the main package of agreements but "this of course if Mr Yeltsin wants it." The meeting can take place later this month or early next.

Shevardnadze denied a report by the French news agency saying he had to ask for medical help because of heart complaint. The Georgian leader said that speculations of this kind were being spread by will-wishers who want him to take more care of himself knowing how hard he was working.

Preparations for Talks With Russia Nearing Completion

PM1101120193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Jan 93 p 1

[Leonid Sergeyev report: "Still Hope"]

[Text] Preparations for a new round of Georgian-Russian talks are nearing completion.

This round will begin 20 January and will be devoted to the preparation of agreements which will govern relations between Georgia and Russia. Work on the documents is now nearing completion. And, as Georgian parliament chairman Eduard Shevardnadze announced, he hopes that relations between the two states, currently not experiencing the best of times, are emerging from a cool phase.

According to the Georgian leader, after the agreements are prepared there could be a meeting with Boris Yeltsin in late January or early February if the Russian president gives his agreement.

E. Shevardnadze said that Georgia's recent request to the United Nations to examine the question of sending peacemaking forces to the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict zone was made in the hope that this organization will be able to promote the fulfillment of the agreement between Georgia and Russia of 3 September last year. Shevardnadze believes that in practice we could be talking about sending UN observers to the conflict zone.

E. Shevardnadze advocated the preparation of a package of agreements with Russia, including one on the deadlines for the Russian Army's presence in Georgia and its

status, since what he called the "Russia factor" occupies a significant place in settling internal conflicts in the republic.

The Abkhazian Parliament Press Service has stated that the introduction of peacemaking forces into the republic can only happen after the complete withdrawal of Georgian formations from its territory. A Press Service statement responding to Georgian leader E. Shevardnadze's request to the United Nations to introduce peacemaking forces into Abkhazia stresses that it was precisely the introduction of Georgian troops which was the cause of the war in Abkhazia and the "genocide of its people."

Meanwhile events in the conflict zone continue to develop. After the main power line in Ochamchirskiy Rayon was restored the population of Sukhumi had electricity for only four days.

During the night, according to information from Georgian military sources and also from Sukhumi power officials, sabotage groups from Abkhazian armed formations placed four explosive devices under a power line pylon on the outskirts of the city of Ochamchir. At around 0400 hours there was an explosion, which damaged the line.

According to information from the same sources, a second sabotage group attempted to get onto the Ochamchir-2 substation site but were prevented from so doing by security personnel. Power workers are carrying out restoration work, which will last, it is assumed, about a week.

Shevardnadze on Abkhazia Fighting, Visit to Iran

OW1101123293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze believes that one can talk about certain military successes achieved by the Georgian army in Abkhazia's Ochamchira Region and along the frontline near Sukhumi. During his traditional Monday radio interview, he told the country that the war in Abkhazia cannot last forever. He also promised to specify his views on prospects for the attainment of peace.

When asked whether his forthcoming visit to Iran may complicate Georgia's relations with the West, he expressed confidence that his trip to Iran might help restore relations between Iran on the one hand, and the West and the Caucasus on the other. Attempts to isolate Iran have always been unproductive, particularly in our time, he said. After his visit to Iran, he is planning to travel to Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Friendship Treaty With Iran To Be Signed

OW1001160693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned from the press center of Georgia's Foreign Ministry that during the official visit to be paid to Tehran on January 19 by the chairman of Georgia's Parliament, Eduard Shevardnadze, a treaty on friendship and neighborliness between Georgia and Iran will be signed. The two sides will also discuss the possibility of economic cooperation, such as natural gas supplies to Georgia from Iran, and the building of a railway in a locality difficult to traverse in Iran's north by Georgian specialists.

Shevardnadze Summons Emergency Session of Parliament

OW1001140893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Georgian parliament, Eduard Shevardnadze, is calling an emergency session of parliament on Tuesday [12 January] to discuss the situation in the republic, parliamentary spokesmen told Interfax.

Economic legislation and the situation in Abkhazia are expected to dominate the agenda.

Political Aspect of Shevardnadze 'Heart Attack' Viewed

MK1001202393 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 10 Jan 93 p 3

[Report by Fedor Mikhaylov: "Has Shevardnadze Really Been Taken Ill?"]

[Text] According to certain reports, Georgian leader E. Shevardnadze suffered a very serious heart attack [tyazheleyshchiy serdechnyy pristup] right at his workplace. Certain sources claim that it may even be a question of a microinfarct [mikroinfarkt]. However, after first-aid treatment Shevardnadze refused to go to the hospital and remained at his post. The former Union minister is well-known to have a far from cast-iron constitution as he suffers from the "regulation" nomenklatura ailment—diabetes.

Clearly, the health of Shevardnadze—the only figure consolidating the warring Georgian clans—is rather a political issue. It is quite possible that a "medical report" will at some stage be a specious excuse for the calm withdrawal from the scene of a politician who will have performed his historical role and exhausted his overall

powers. Typically, according to information at the editorial office's disposal, Shevardnadze's close associate Teymuraz Stepanov is also in Moscow "for treatment." Admittedly, during private conversations Stepanov denied claims that he has no intention of returning to Tbilisi and that he is making ready an "airfield" [gotovit "aerodrom"] in the capital for his boss.

U.S. Official Meets Shevardnadze, Discusses Aid

LD0901231593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Richard Armitage, special aide to the U.S. secretary of state and coordinator for humanitarian assistance to the former republics of the Soviet Union, arrived in Tbilisi today. The aim of his visit is to study the economic situation in the republic and to discuss issues concerning humanitarian assistance for 1993.

The eminent guest conveyed to the Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, a special message from U.S. President George Bush. We are very concerned about the economic crisis in this region. In December the U.S. President urged the members of the G-7 and the European Community to earmark fuel for Georgia and Armenia. Transport costs—$5 million—will be covered by the U.S. side. In February we are planning to bring $10 million of baby food, 100,000 tonnes of flour, a large batch of medical supplies, and medical equipment.

Eduard Shevardnadze thanked the representative of the U.S. Administration for the assistance and support, voicing the hope that Georgia will succeed in overcoming the difficulties in view of its geopolitical position, mineral riches, special climate, and of course, with the support of Western countries.

Richard Armitage left for Germany today.

Defense Minister: Gamsakhurdia's Ouster 'Military Coup'

OW0901161593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani has qualified last January's ouster of Zviad Gamsakhurdia as a military coup- d'etat. In an interview with the newspaper IBERIA SPEKTR, which reflects the view of Gamsakhurdia's supporters, Kitovani says attempts to present last year's developments as a popular uprising are misleading.

The Minister says that a year ago the opposition had no intention of launching war. It only wanted the President to change his policies. Kitovani says the President was working the Parliament as Wagner worked his orchestra. He feels this and last year's Parliaments are very much alike. The Minister is sure neither the Parliament nor some of its leaders can expect any good from their politicking games.

Tengiz Kitovani would want Georgia to show a higher degree of professionalism in politics, possibly even a certain slant to dictatorship, till it brings its life to normal. He is calling on the top echelons of the national leaders to forget personal ambitions because no one is entitled to feel he's exceptional and stands above the rest, and no one should be showing off as Georgia's one and only savior. In Kitovani's view, unilateral decisions must be ruled out. Decisions must be adopted only after all-round consideration.

Update on Forces' Continued Fighting With Abkhazia

60 Civilians Killed in 40 Days

LD0901111993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 9 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS stringer Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 9 Jan—It has been quiet since first thing this morning in Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia, and on the front line along the Gumista River, according to Georgian military command headquarters. Yesterday evening [8 January], however, shells exploded in the city's streets. Over the past 40 days, the republic's Health Ministry reports, a total of 60 civilians—15 of them Russians—have been kiled in Sukhumi as a result of bombardment by Abkhazian armed formations.

Shooting Along Entire Front

LD1001135393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—There was shooting along the entire Georgian-Abkhazian front last night, the headquarters of the Abkhazian Defence Ministry reported today. There were no positional changes on the Esheri-Sukhumi stretch of the front. The sides exchanged sporadic rifle and machine-gun fire. Abkhazian guerrillas attacked Georgian government troops in Ochamchiri district near the populated localities earlier captured by the Georgian side. No casualties were reported.

According to the same source, Abkhazian-Georgian talks on the exchange of war prisoners were continued today.

Russian Troops Mine Town

LD1001135493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Video report by N.Kandiashvili, with assistance of the press service of the Georgian Defense Ministry; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] What you are seeing on your screen makes up about 60 tonnes of munitions—a total of 2,000,000 items and units of explosives. They have been mined on the territory of the special designation Russian military unit in the very center of the town of Lagodekhi. We have managed to find out that the order to mine them was issued by Colonel General Ivanenkov, head of intelligence of the Russian group of forces in the Transcaucasus. He probably gave this order being totally ignorant of the possibility that tens of thousands of peaceful residents and the whole area could be blown up by accident. And, finally, all this mass of explosives is being guarded by eight soldiers—here is life on the powder keg for you, and with Christmas fireworks at that!

Fighting Intensifies Overnight

LD1101105493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—Fighting between Georgian and Abkhazian forces has intensified overnight. The Abkhazian Defence Ministry said shootings continued with the use of machine guns and Georgian forces intensively shelled from tanks Abkhazian positions along the Gumista River.

TASS learned from the Russian Defence Ministry that on Sunday Georgian forces again shelled the seismic laboratory in Esheri guarded by Russian paratroopers.

Fighting also goes between Abkhazian guerrillas and Georgian governmental forces in Ochamchira district in south-east of Abkhazia. Casualties were reported on both sides. The Abkhazian Defence Ministry headquarters said that Georgians are regrouping their forces in the district which testifies to a possible offensive on Abkhazians in order to force them up to the mountains.

Prisoners Exchanged in Sukhumi

LD1001190593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1844 GMT 10 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengizh Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi January 10 TASS—Georgia and Abkhazia have exchanged prisoners-of-war on the territory of the Russian Paratroop Batallion, the press centre of the Georgian military headquarters announced on Monday.

The exchange took place thanks to an agreement reached at the meeting between Georgian and Abkhazian representatives.

The Abkhazian side handed over the Georgian side eight Georgian prisoners-of war and the Georgian side—2 Abkhazian prisoners-of-war and 5 corpses of soldiers who died a few days ago during an attack of the Abkhazian side on the Gumista river.

Another meeting of Georgian and Abkhazian representatives is scheduled for Monday.

Russian Draftees Arrive as Reinforcements

PM1101112993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Georgiy Lebanidze: "Reinforcement from Russia Arrives in Georgia"]

[Text] Under the agreement reached at the Russian-Georgian talks, draftees from Russia have begun to arrive in the republic to reinforce the personnel of the Russian troop units deployed in Georgia.

Estonia

Army Negotiating With Israel on Weapons Purchase

OW1001174193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1647 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mentioning well informed sources, the Tallinn radio station "KUKU" reported that Estonia is negotiating with Israel concerning the procurement of a large party of weapons. According to the radio station, the chairman of the Tallinn bank "Revaliya" and an official trade representative of Estonia to Israel, Leonid Apanaski, is the mediator in this bargain.

The previous Thursday Mart Laar, the Estonian Prime Minister, received an Israeli delegation of businessmen who, as the governmental press service reported, were interested in investments in the former USSR military factories situated in Estonia. The radio station has not informed whether there is connection between this visit and the negotiations about the procurement of the weapons.

Last year Estonia procured a large party of submachine guns from Romania however it appeared that they lack quality. Estonia also received weapons from Russia, other CIS and Eastern European countries via different channels.

Foreign Firms Seek Investments in Military Industry

WS0801132493 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0928 GMT 8 Jan 93

[From 8 January POSTIMEES, p. 3]

[Text] Friday, January 8—Estonia has started negotiations with foreign firms on investments into former Soviet military industry situated on Estonia's territory. Lots of foreign delegations visited Estonia on Wednesday [6 January] and Thursday, including businessmen from Israel and Greece. They met Premier Mart Laar, Defence Minister Hain Rebas and Chairman of the Privatisation Company Jaan Manitski. According to the Premier's press service, the guests were interested most in economic cooperation as well as investing into former military industries.

The delegations were introduced to Estonia's economic situation and future perspectives. Several former Soviet military factories are situated in Estonia, including the shipyard, the electronics factory "Baltijets", machine building factory "Dvigatel" and the Sillamas integrated plant of rare metal concentration as well as Tartu plant producing flight recorders for airplanes.

European Community Grants 40 Million ECU Credit

OW1001173693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1647 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Brussels the representatives of Estonia and the European Community signed a treaty to allocate a credit totalling 40 million ECU to Estonia. The Estonian Ambassador to Brussels Clyde Kull reported to BALTFAX that this credit is not a purpose-oriented one. According to preliminary data, the funds will be used to solve the social issues and to credit entrepreneurs.

The ambassador said that the credit (Estonia will receive a half of it immediately) is a part of the aid promised to the Republic by a group of the developed countries (G-24) to support the payment balance.

The provisions to repay the credit are to be determined following the ratification of the treaty by the Estonian parliament.

Interior Minister on Regulating Metals Trading

OW1001173793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1647 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We strive to regulate the trade with metals but not to abolish it," the Estonian interior minister, Lagle Parek, told BALTFAX. According to her, it is inexpedient to prohibit the buying up of metals from private persons but "we should put an end to the theft of metals." On Friday [8 January] Parek examined the depots belonging to firms engaged in metal business. "One could see objects obviously stolen from the rail way at the storage facilities of the firms "Silves Enterprise" and "Eesti Metlliecksport". Of course, the stolen objects have been confiscated," the minister asserts.

At present the buying up of metals in the republic has been prohibited excluding the state firm "Eesti Metlliecksport". The government intends to ask the State Assembly to grant the right to the police to confiscate metals "of unidentified and illegal" origin.

Government Approves Territorial Zone

WS0801132293 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0928 GMT 8 Jan 93

[From 8 January RAHVA HAAL, p.1]

[Text] Friday, January 8—Yesterday's government session approved the 12-mile territorial waters. The draft law will be presented to the Riigikogu in the nearest future. Former Defence Ministry advisor Toomas Puura was excluded from the Estonian-Russian negotiations delegation while Deputy Commerce Minister Ulo Sarv and Foreign Ministry advisor Vello Vare were included in the delegation. The government decided to present the draft law on the 20 million dollar loan from Japan to the Riigikogu once more. A government work group was formed to formulate the development conception of Estonian agriculture. The conception is to concern agriculture as well as rural life in general. The work group includes Justice Minister Kaido Kama, Agriculture Minister Jaan Leetsar, Minister Liia Hanni, Environment Minister Andres Tarand and Social Minister Marju Lauristin.

Assistant Health Minister Vello Ilmoja, Deputy Health Minister Enn Ounpuu, Assistant Social Care Minister Georg Manniku and Deputy Social Care Minister Kulli Pedaku as well as Director General of Trade Licenses Department Peeter Tikhomirov were dismissed from their posts at yesterday's session. Deputy Industry and Energy Minister Koit Kaaristu will be dismissed on January 11. According to government press representative Ain Saarna, Premier Mart Laar signed the order in connection with a government reform.

Aug-Dec 1992 Price Increase Percentages Reported

OW0901160493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1515 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Estonian Statistics Department, the prices of consumer goods in Estonia were on average 3.3 percent higher in December 1992 than in November that year.

This is the lowest figure for the entire period following the monetary reform. Thus, in August 1992, the increase reached 17.6 percent, in September, 6.6 percent, in October, 7.7 percent, and in November, 9.5 percent.

The average price of services in December went up by 3.1 percent, that of food, by five percent, and that of manufactured goods, by 1.2 percent.

As food goes, increases were particularly high in the prices of fruit and vegetables (more than 20 percent). There were also significant rises in the prices of milk products and eggs (10.1 percent), groats, flour, and bread (5.4 percent), as well as meat and fish (4.4 percent).

The population's expenses for medical assistance went up by nearly 24 percent. Viktoria Trasanov, head of the cost of living section at the Statistics Department, believes this was caused by shortage of comparatively cheap medicines and their replacement in pharmacies with more expensive Western ones.

Latvia

Russian Army Withdrawal of Materiel Continues

OW0801173693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1727 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Army has continued to withdraw its military equipment and other assets from Latvia.

The bureau for the control of the Russian troop withdrawal has said that since last June Russia has removed from Latvia 42.2 thousand sub-machine-guns, 3.9 handguns and 166 self-propelled artillery pieces. Most of the equipment was moved to the Kaliningrad, Moscow and St. Petersburg military districts. Besides, more than 14 million cartridges, 605 thousand artillery shells, 20.7 sea mines, 31 thousand land mines, 23.5 thousand air bombs, 1,030 rockets and other equipment were removed.

Over the same period 254 Russian officers have left Latvia.

Talks on Russian Troop Withdrawal To Resume 19 Jan

LD0901001293 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Talks between the state delegations of Russia and Latvia will resume evidently on 19 January in Riga. This was reported by Janis Dinevics, minister of state of the Republic of Latvia. The problem of Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia will be in the focus of the bilateral meeting. Janis Dinevics stated that in spite of the difficulties in the talks and President Yeltsin's decree on the suspension of troop withdrawal, redeployment of the Russian troops from Latvia has continued. More than 160 military units and subunits as well as a large reat quantity of military equipment and arms were withdrawn during the second half of last year.

Official Denies Russian Training Ground Returned

WS0801130893 Tallinn BNS in English 1553 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, Jan 07, BNS—A senior Latvian official overseeing the withdrawal of Russian troops denied a report on the Latvian radio that a Russian air force training ground in western Latvia had already been handed over to Latvia.

In an interview with BNS, Ilgonis Upmalis, head of the bureau overseeing the pullout of Russian troops from Latvia, said neither he nor employees of his bureau were aware of signing of any handover deed as reported by the radio.

He said Latvia had been ready to assume control over the training ground a long time ago but the leadership of the Russian Army objected to gradual takeover procedures put forward by the Latvian side in order to dispose the area of mines.

Instead, a commission was formed in charge of the handover of the whole training ground, but even after that the Russian Army failed to relinquish the facility saying that there had been reply from the Russian Defense Ministry whether the forest on the territory of the training ground should also be handed over, said Upmalis.

He noted that the training ground could be taken under the Latvian control only after setting up of a single commission by the Russian Army.

Defense Ministry Enumerates Russian Violations

LD0901064293 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The Ministry of Defense today distributed an announcement giving the number of instances of illegal Russian troop activity on Latvian territory registered during 1992.

The report notes 54 instances of illegally bringing in additional contingents, as a result of which 2,630 officers were brought into Latvia. Regulations on the use of airspace were violated 392 times, and bombers carried out nine airraids on the Zvarde range.

There were 38 instances of the unsanctioned entry of warships into Latvian harbors and their exit from those harbors. The report also notes that 169 mechanized transport columns moved on Latvian territory without permission and that 17 trains with military equipment and stock moved on Latvian railroads without permission from authorities.

As stated in the announcement, the aforementioned facts reflect evidence of only some of the violations.

Gorbunovs Meets Russian Parliamentarians

LD0801231393 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] We have already reported that today the first official meeting between Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Council, and representatives of the Russian Parliament took place. Listen to what Anatolijs Gorbunovs said:

[Begin Gorbunovs recording] I have just had my first meeting with the official delegation of the Russian Parliament, and to a certain extent it was symbolic because it took place on the second day of the Orthodox Christmas. Personally, I am very satisfied that the affiars of the Latvian Orthodox Church—I think the judicial side—were resolved successfully just before the Orthodox Christmas.

But the meeting was held at the request of the Russian parliamentary delegation to discuss the Parfenov case. Here we have a special difference of opinion, or contradiction, so there has been no further resolution of this matter. In fact, there has not been for some time because even on 26 November, in reply to President Yeltsin's letter, I wrote that the question of where Parfenov will carry out the sentence can be resolved in bilateral talks. I think that on this issue both procuracies share the view that in bilateral talks they can discuss the question of where Parfenov should serve the rest of his sentence, that they will definitely discuss this in bilateral talks, and there are official letters from both procuracies. In practice our Latvian Procuracy General awaits the Russian delegaton.

It seems to me that the Russian side has very correctly formulated its appeal for Parfenov to be handed over so that he can be punished in future on Russian territory. Besides, without putting forward any conditions, I think that on this question of the legality of the sentence, as well as our main bone of contention and demand about the doings of the special purpose militia detachment [OMON] in Latvia, both procuracies are prepared to agree to create a joint group which will investigate, in a way acceptable to both sides, specific activities here in Latvia, if there are any specific facts.

In the near future the Parfenov matter will be taken off the agenda, but that does not mean that the OMON case will be taken off the agenda. [end recording]

Border Guards Send Back Yugoslav Refugees

OW0901154193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1514 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday, Latvian border guards picked from the train Moscow-Riga, detained, and sent back a refugee family from Yugoslavia. BALTFAX correspondent was told at the information desk of the Latvian border brigade that those detained were the first refugees from Yugoslavia who tried to cross into Latvia without appropriate visas. At present, Latvian legislation does not provide refugee status for such persons.

Meeting Discusses Home Defense Guard Role

LD1001173493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Home Defense Guard today is a well organized force which acts to the advantage of the Latvian state in a disciplined and purposeful way, Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs stated today when addressing a conference entitled "Fatherland, Home Defense Guard, Time."

The role of the Home Defense Guard in the country's defense system, its legal status, and the public attitude toward it were discussed at the conference. Girts Kristovskis, chief of staff of the Home Defense Guard, reported on the work done last year. He also noted that there is a fear in society that Latvia might turn into a militarized state. Questions of the legal basis for activities of the Home Defense Guard and its place in the country's defense system also remain open. Anatolijs Gorbunovs, however, particularly stressed in his address that the Home Defense Guard was created by the people and must serve the people.

A question of whether home defense guards should carry out police functions was repeatedly raised during the conference. Views were exchanged on how to establish cooperation with local governments, how to create a solid legal basis for activity of the Home Defense Guard, and how to arrange training of home defense guards.

Handing Over of Zvarde Military Range Delayed

LD1001214193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Many peasants of the Saldus rayon and the former Zvarde rural district are impatiently awaiting next spring. They hope that they may be able to begin plowing and sowing in the fields of their former farms. Unfortunately, the handing over of the military range territory is being delayed because the command of the Baltic Military District has not yet had organized a joint commission for the handover. Only the troops' townlet of the former military range has been handed over. Guarding

the townlet has now been taken over by the the 43d Battalion of the Home Defense Guard.

Central Bank Suffers Losses in Mid-1992

WS0801131093 Tallinn BNS in English 1553 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, Jan 07, BNS—Latvia's central bank, the Bank of Latvia, suffered its greatest losses worth several billion LVR [Latvian rubles] in mid-1992 exchanging the balances of the ruble area countries into Latvian rubles, vice-president of the Bank Ilmars Rimsevics told BNS.

He said such losses in the world were normally being attributed to efforts aimed at stabilizing a national currency.

He added, however, that the Bank had made large profits carrying out foreign exchange buying and selling operations.

According to Rimsevics, this was made possible because the Bank of Latvia offered more profitable exchange rates than most commercial exchange offices.

Rimsevics also said the minimum sum of basic capital of 5 million Latvian rubles would for the time being be retained as a requirement for establishing and registering a commercial bank in Latvia.

The Bank of Latvia and experts of the Finance Ministry recently suggested that the minimum basic assets needed for founding a commercial bank be raised ten-fold in view of the present inflation rates, but the proposal was rejected by members of the parliamentary economics committee and the former Economic Reform Minister.

The rejection was motivated by the fact that if base capital was increased, branches of the Bank of Latvia would not be able to become independent financial organizations.

Group Formed To Promote Investment

OW0901160393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1514 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Coordinator of the Baltic Liberal Information Center, BLIC, and a member of the Board of the Latvian Free Market Normunds Grostins has told newsmen that the Information Center has set up a Baltic Economic Information Group and is planning to hold Latvia's first credit tender on January 16. One million roubles is to be put up for tender. The new group is attempting to create what it sees as civilized conditions for capital investment in Latvia and lure more foreign investors to the republic. Both businesses and priivate individuals are invited to attend the tender.

Besides, said Grostins, the Baltic Liberal Information Center had created a security program to be known as CREDO which will be summing up data on tax evaders, forgers of legal documents, offenders against existing law regulations and those who fail to pay back loans. So far CREDO's data on tax evaders cannot be put to use because the national taxation system leaves much to be desired. Its brain fathers hope, however, the program will help stabilize the national economy and encourage new foreign investment.

Lithuania

Russian 'Frontier Troop' Withdrawal Completed

OW1001140693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The withdrawal of the Russian frontier troops from Lithuania has been completed," the Russian frontier troops' press center informed INTERFAX.

The personnel of the forward-based units have been pulled out of Estonia and Latvia. Less than 1,000 men, mostly of the rear forces, still remain in these states. The press service says that they are busy removing the Russian frontier troops' property and equipment.

The mission of guarding these states' borders has been turned over to the national forces.

The final date of the Russian frontier guards' complete withdrawal from Estonia and Latvia will depend on the readiness of the garrisons of the Pskov and Kaliningrad Regions to receive the personnel and their family members coming back from the Baltic states.

About 70 units of motorized equipment, several planes and helicopters, 5 coast-guard boats and about 2,000 tons of various loads are still to be removed from the Baltic states. The press center announced that the local authorities do not hamper the transportation of the loads.

Lubys Briefs U.S. Envoy on Talks With Russia

OW0901154293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1515 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys told the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, Darryl Johnson, that he hoped to meet with Russian leaders in January in order to continue negotiations with them on economic cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking about Lithuania's relations with Western states, Lubys said Lithuania "is open for foreign capital investments" and will be providing favorable conditions for them.

As for Lithuania's relations with the International Monetary Fund, Lubys said a commission had been formed charged with negotiating with the IMF amendments to the economic policy memorandum approved by the Lithuanian government. One should be realistic, and, though irreversible, transition to market economics should for a while be government-regulated, Lubys said.

Talks About Economy

LD0801185393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys has received U.S. Amabssador in Lithuania Darryl Johnson and responded to his questions.

Describing the cabinet's economic policy, Bronislovas Lubys said that basically nothing is changing in the strategy of economic reforms, only the tactics. He noted that at present an analysis of the results of the reform measures already taken is in progress. The prime minister noted the negative role played by, as he said, the economic mafia which is a well organized structure which has even managed to incorporate its people into state and government institutions. He cited as an example the auctions in the privatization of state property which have not been real auctions.

Describing changes in privatization policy, Lubys noted that he is not a supporter of the handing over of enterprises to the personnel working there. Inscribed stock is to be introduced with limited management rights for the workers in the enterprises. After 15 January the process of privatization will continue.

However, the prime minister regards the project of Professor Anatanavicius as too socialist and noted in the conversation with the U.S. ambassador that he has convinced the respected economist Kazimieras Antanavicius, member of the Seimas, to withdraw his project.

There are no essential contradictions between the Lithuanian Government and the Seimas on the basic issues of privatization. We must admit that state capital in some enterprises will constitute up to 50 percent, but such practice exists in Western European countries, too.

In view of the prime minister, privatization for hard currency will be expanded. He also supports the initiative of foreign firms which must have up to 60 percent of their capital in joint enterprises. He cited as an example of such cooperation the Klaipeda hardboard factory project.

Replying to the question of to whom the functions of the Ministry of International Economic relations will be transferred, Prime Minister Lubys noted that these functions will mainly be discharged by a department of the same name at the Foreign Ministry. The ministries of finance and of economy will maintain contacts with the IMF, and in the future such relations will be dealt with by the Bank of Lithuania.

The prime minister also stressed that the realities of life dictate the need for a certain regulation by the state during the transition to the market. We are obliged to take public opinion into consideration and if we arrive in the market somewhat later, we will not [words indistinct] and the losses will be less, he believes. Thus, the Poles will introduce international energy prices only in 1994.

Rete's Orlando on Party's Election Success

PM2112095492 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 16 Dec 92 p 8—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Interview with Rete Secretary Leoluca Orlando by Sebastiano Messina in Rome, date not given]

[Text] Rome—*"And this is only the beginning," [Rete Secretary] Leoluca Orlando warns, galvanized by a vote which has established the Rete as a nationwide movement, even if only with 4 percent. The former mayor of Palermo has won, and now he makes his proposal to the defeated regime: a constituent assembly to refound the republic.*

[Messina] Honorable Orlando, did you expect this 4 percent?

[Orlando] I felt that the people were with us. And I will tell you something else. The feeling I have is that on 13 December the Rete expressed only a part of its potential. At our second electoral rendezvous we are, according to projections, the country's fourth political force. The results speak clearly: We are fourth in Monza, fourth in Varese, fourth in Castellamare, fourth in Reggio Calabria.

[Messina] What percentage do you think you can obtain?

[Orlando] At this moment we have an old political system which is finishing, and we are demolishing it. Along with the League, of course. In the new political dimension, we and the League are the new political actors. But if you consider that the League does not exist in the south, in Reggio it only got 0.25 percent, it becomes clear that our result is more important than [League leader] Bossi's, more significant. Because what clearly emerges is that the League is a large regional party, while the Rete is a national movement. Bossi is like [Franz-Jozef] Strauss, like the Bavarian conservative party.

[Messina] Because he is not breaking through in the south, while the Rete is setting its tents up in the north?During the conversation, a great deal of attention was paid to the influence of foreign capital. Its intake, Lubys noted, will strengthen the economic security and independence of Lithuania.

The conversation lasted for 75 minutes.

Lubys Holds Talks With Polish Premier

LD0801161093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] A working meeting between Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys and Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka ended late last night. Relations between the two neighboring states were discussed during the meeting. A great deal of attention was devoted to the problems of economy, energy, and the integration of communications. The two premiers signed a joint statement which says that it is essential to start negotiations in the nearest future in preparing an agreement on good neighborliness and friendly relations in creating a free trade zone. A joint commission should be formed within 10 days to coordinate these problems.

The statement confirms the aspiration to strive to ensure that the international routes joining both states correspond to European standards. Special attention should be paid to the Vilnius-Warsaw route and the railway goods stations in Trakiskes and Sestokai.

It was agreed to cooperate in the construction and overhaul of ships, aviation equipment, and motor transport. It is intended to increase this year the number of air routes between Poland and Lithuania. More active efforts must be made to ease traffic at the Lithuanian-Polish state border.

Attention is paid in the statement to the opportunities of national mminorities in both states in ensuring the needs of language, culture, religion and education.

The statement was signed by Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys and Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka.

And now a recording prepared by our correspondent, Ceslovas Burba, from the meeting of the premiers, and how it is regarded by Bronislovas Lubys and Hanna Suchocka.

[Begin recording] [Lubys] We have very optimistically discussed [words indistinct]. We agreed that there will be a version of the agreement from the Polish side, and our version will be submitted too. We are introducing the timetable of the signing. We agreed (?to form) commissions on transport, customs and other issues. It is very important that we are transferring everything to the level of experts and fix the dates and ask that this is done not this year or next year, but [word indistinct]. Mrs. Suchocka accepted an invitation to visit us. Such a meeting will take place and the main agreement will be prepared by that time; there will be both economic and political agreements and many others. We discussed Polish and Lithuanian issues, we discussed the issues of energy, such as the natural gas pipeline from Western Europe via Poland to Lithuania [words indistinct].

We also discussed the possible electric power transit line. All these matters need [words indistinct] ministries from both sides, but there is principal understanding of these problems. We discussed also Kalvarija, we stated this in the communique on the border crossing, that it is essential to improve, and they agree that it is essential to improve. Remarks were made about our smugglers who make the work of the Polish customs officials more difficult, they make more difficult the issue of confidence because transit is continuing to Western Europe. This is very important. We must take steps on our part.

[Correspondent] Who initiated this meeting?

[Lubys] I and Mrs. Suchocka. The final date was set by Mrs. Suchocka. My wish to meet was expressed through the ambassadors.

[Correspondent] Was the meeting planned when negotiations were taking place on the level of vice premiers?

[Lubys] These are various issues. I have been visited lately by many Polish ambassadors, senators. This also influenced this our meeting.

[Correspondent] Has your opinion been expressed on a very active Polish press as regards the Lithuanuan Poles?

[Lubys] I would not think that there is any special activity. I would think that neither side should make unnecessary drastic steps, such as the postponement of the elections or other problems. They must be solved at the table during discussions. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

At the end of the news conference the Polish premier, Hanna Suchocka, agreed to give a brief interview to Lithuanian radio.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mrs. Premier, was this meeting with the Lithuanian Premier, Bronislova Lubys, similar to other your meetings with the premiers of other countries, was there sufficient time to discuss the most important issues?

[Suchocka, in Polish] I already said that official meeting are always well prepared. But the discussions with Premier [name indistinct] and Premier [name indistinct] were very important because they helped us better to specify certain problems and not to start from the beginning.

[Correspondent] Do you intend to come to Lithuania this year?

[Suchocka] I hope that this will take place this year, even in the first half of the year.

[Corresdpondent] What should be done prior to this?

[Suchocka] We have said certain things in our statement. A working commission is to be formed, a draft agreement has been (?received). Thus we will have something to talk about. Maybe, we will even sign the agreement during my visit, we will see. [end recording]

The Polish premier said that such working visits help preparations of official meetings and make it possible to make issues more specific. The premier thinks that her visit to Lithuania will be possible in the first half of the year and, if intensive work continues, it will be possible to sign agreements during her visit to Lithuania.